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January 13, 1955

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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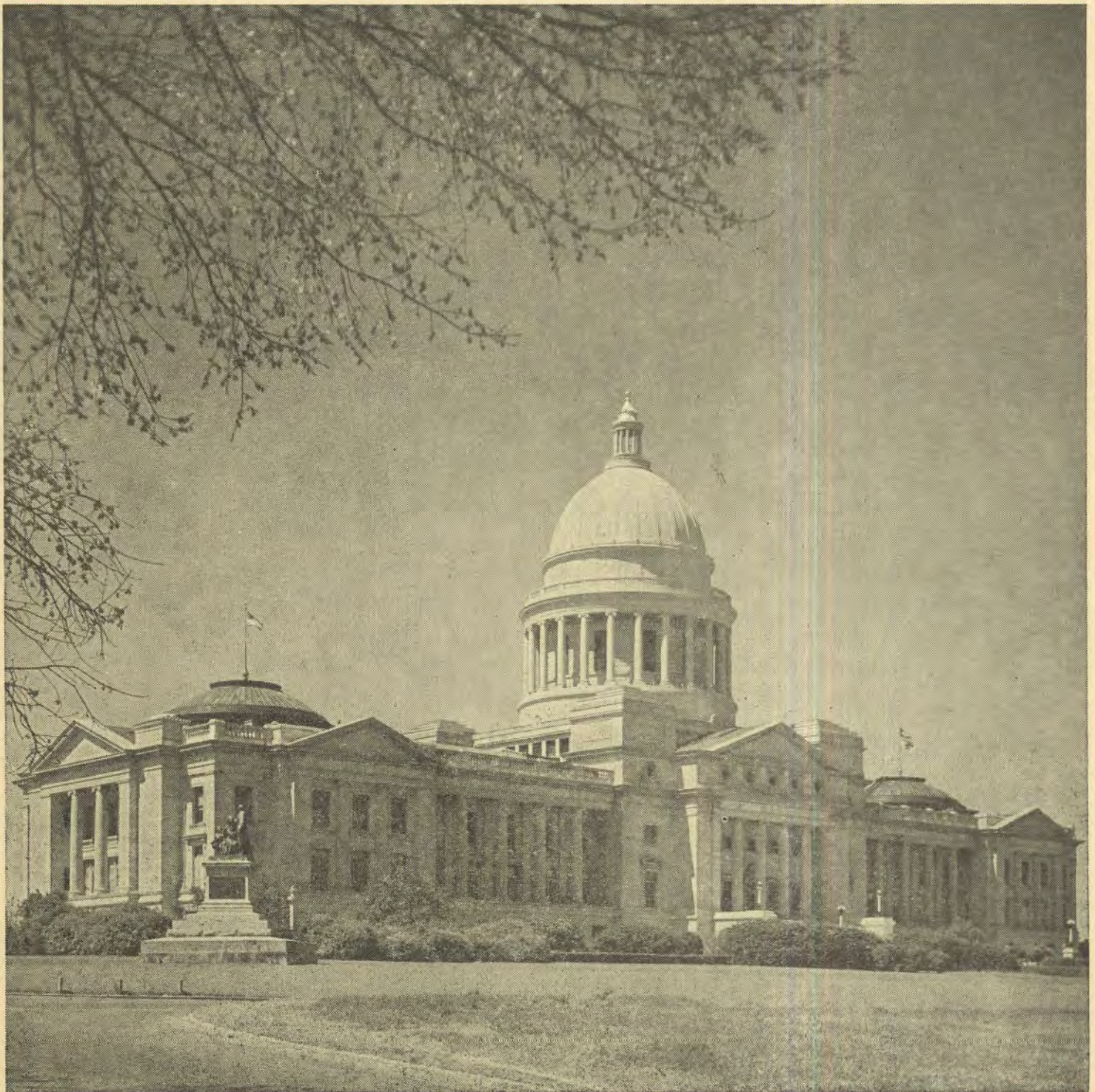
ARKANSAS BAPTIST

BAPTIST OFFICIAL STATE PAPER

VOLUME 54

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, JANUARY 13, 1955

NUMBER 2



LOUIS C. WILLIAMS

Capitol Building In Little Rock — Symbol of Responsible Government

Some Thoughts On Fruit Bearing

By W. B. O'NEAL
Batesville, Arkansas

"Herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" John 15:8.

Two years ago in midsummer, I selected two buds from my favorite peach tree and carefully transferred them to two young trees of questionable origin that had sprung up in my chicken yard. Having planted these buds properly in the trunks of these trees, I watched closely to see if the little lives borne there with them would take hold. Joy flooded my heart when I saw that the cambium of the old stock was uniting with the cambium of the new.

When fall came, I very painstakingly took up the young trees and carefully rooted them in my little orchard. As spring days began to dawn, I watched the little buds with my pocket knife keen and ready. As soon as I saw my transplanted buds springing, I severed each tree, the old stock, right down to the bud I had planted. The old stock was left only a stump about one inch above ground. I thus turned all the substance of the soil, all the strength of the air, and all the power of the sun, yea, even the gifts of the rain and the dew, into the channels of life flowing into and through the new buds. By fall I found I had two grand little trees shoulder high to me and each one actually carrying a few bloom buds.

Develop the New

When the new life is implanted and begins to take hold, that is the time to sever the old stock and to give all the substance of soil, strength of air, power of the sun, and the blessings of dew and rain to the new growth. Oh, how we need to turn the powers of life into the new life in every newborn child of God!

But we cannot quit at the end of a year or at any year's end. The next spring I had to take away the watersprouts that had sprung up from the old stumps. There are trees in my orchard ten years of age from which each year I must remove watersprouts. What a fight it is all through our Christian lives to keep the old stumps of our former selves from sending forth shoots that will sap the power of fruitage from the new and implanted life!

Years ago my father owned a peach tree the fruit of which was beyond the power of words to describe. It was as near heavenly as anything earthly can be. But this tree was too hasty in its efforts. It didn't wait for the full power of spring. Once, only once in its life of several years did it bear a crop of fruit. That time it did wait till springtime had fully come.

How to Develop

The Lord said, "But barry ye at Jerusalem till ye be endued with power from on high." Had the disciples not obeyed this injunction of Jesus and rushed out to tell the story of the resurrection their testimonies would have fallen as the frostbitten petals from the too early blooming peach tree. Why, oh why, do we not wait and pray until the spirit of power comes upon us?

On the other hand, I now have a peach tree which has been well stocked with young and promising peaches two different seasons, but this tree is too slow in maturing its fruit. It is not an October peach and I doubt if it could ripen its crop if the summer

continued on through November. What this tree needs is the power to push production. It is a pitiful sight to see this tree loaded with green peaches when frosts begin to fall.

One Thing Lacking

All my life I have had to deal with men and women, good men and women, lovers of God, who were loaded with ideas and good intentions but whose summers were just not long enough. They couldn't find enough time. I pray the Lord to open the pores, the channels, through which the sap of life flows, and so hasten the speed of development.

One other tree I wish to introduce. When I lived at Salado, my neighbor, Mr. J. P. Miles, took me out into his orchard to show me a plum tree and to ask me to explain to him why the tree functioned as it did. The tree was forked some eighteen inches from the ground. The forks were almost perfectly alike, one to the north, the other to the south.

As I looked I saw the south prong well loaded with plums but there was not one plum on the north prong. Mr. Miles informed me that these prongs alternated year by year in bearing fruit. He asked me if I could explain the mystery. I told him I could not.

Neither can I explain the mystery why so many of us do only about half as much as we ought to do and perhaps less than half of what we are capable of doing.

"Herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

—000—

The Holy Spirit in Evangelism

J. B. Lawrence, Author

Here is a new book, concerning the Holy Spirit, His Person, Place and Work in Evangelism. It is one of the most practical, easily understood studies on the subject of the Holy Spirit that I have yet read. In six ably written chapters, Author Lawrence shows what the Spirit-filled life can and should mean for the individual believer and for human society. There is no man among Southern Baptists better qualified to write such a book than is Dr. Lawrence.

The Chapter titles are:

- I. Pentecost in Christ's Evangelistic Program.
- II. Power For Service.
- III. The Spirit-filled Life.
- IV. The World Convicted.
- V. How To Be Filled With the Spirit.
- VI. What It Means To Be Filled With the Spirit.

These chapters will be of vital help to every pastor, evangelist, preacher and Christian worker as we go into the Nation-Wide Simultaneous Evangelistic Crusade. The truths of this book are eternal and are applicable in Evangelism for all time.

The supreme need of our churches and of every preacher who will participate in the Simultaneous Crusade in 1955, is the power which the Holy Spirit will release in those who have the faith and willingness to receive the divine dynamic of God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," saith the Lord of Hosts. We have done much of what man can do, which is good and necessary, but that will all be in vain unless the power of God prevails in this Crusade. This book was prepared at the request of Dr. C. E. Matthews and his staff and the State Secretaries of Evangelism.

The Seeking Savior

A Devotion by the Editor

"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save."

I called to see a sick child. Disease had laid hold upon the little fellow. There it lay in the mother's arms, weak and emaciated, a prey to the enemies of life. The doctor was called; he prescribed a remedy; loving hands ministered to the needs of the child, and anxious hearts prayed to God for its recovery. All efforts of parents, doctor, and friends were to rescue the little life from the grip of the disease which threatened its life.

Sometimes all efforts fail us and the light of life goes out ere it has scarcely begun.

The disease of sin has laid hold upon the human heart, every human heart. Jesus is the Great Physician and He has never lost a case which was brought to Him.

Jesus lived among those whom He would save. He touched their lives. He shared their sorrows. He entered into their experiences; He gave them His life. He searched for them by every means of spiritual influence and appeal. He probed their hearts with divine truth. He exerted the energy and power of Deity to save them from their sins.

Jesus has not yet given up the search for lost souls. He is searching for the lost by every word of divine truth, by every holy influence released through His disciples, by every heart prompting of the lost themselves.

He is searching for the lost sheep that has carelessly wandered away from the fold and which is exposed to the dangers of the wilderness of sin. He is searching for the lost coin, the lost human values in each soul, hidden under the debris of a wicked world. He is searching for the lost son who has deliberately chosen the far country of sin and wickedness. He is searching for them to reclaim them, to restore them, to heal and cleanse them.

And blessed fact, there are those who are found of Him and are saved!

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" Luke 19:10.

Not only for the preacher and the evangelist is the substance of this book wonderfully pertinent, but it also has a message and a promise for every disciple of Christ.

The Holy Spirit in Evangelism is an effective blending of the doctrinal and devotional.

We are heartily and enthusiastically recommending this splendid book to all our pastors in Arkansas. Available through the Baptist Book Store for \$1.50.

—I. L. Yegrbly.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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From The Editor's Desk

Launching The 1955 Evangelistic Crusade

Dr. I. L. Yearby, secretary of evangelism in Arkansas, has put his heart and soul into the preparation and planning for the State-wide Evangelistic Conference to be held at the First Church, Little Rock, January 24, 25, 26. A glance at the program is sufficient to convince one of the comprehensive grasp of evangelism possessed by Dr. Yearby and the diligence with which he has planned the program.

A glance at the program will also convince one of the high caliber of the program personnel and assures one that there will be no dull moments during the Conference.

Outstanding Speakers

Dr. T. L. Holcomb, for eighteen years executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, and currently executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, is scheduled to deliver four messages. A. B. VanArsdale, formerly pastor of First Church, Benton, now in Anniston, Alabama, is scheduled to bring two messages. John Edmund Haggai, from Louisville, Kentucky, will deliver two messages. Other out-of-state speakers are Aubry Short, secretary of evangelism in Louisiana; Vernon Yearby, son of Dr. I. L. Yearby, pastor in Florence, Alabama; and Loren Williams of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, who will have charge of the music.

A number of the men in Arkansas will appear on the program and these men from Arkansas are second to none.

The theme of the program: "Forward—Together—In Revival and Evangelism."

If we march forward in this great crusade in 1955, we should expect certain representatives from every church in Arkansas in attendance on this Evangelistic Conference. Pastors, deacons, Sunday school workers, Training Union directors, WMU leaders, and Brotherhood officers should attend the Evangelistic Conference. If we go forward together, it will be necessary for these persons to feel the impulse of the movement as it will be generated and transmitted to the hearts and lives of those who are present at the Conference. There will be plenty of information and inspiration disseminated to those who are present. It will be difficult for those who are not present but who are leaders in their own church to catch the spirit of the Conference and follow through on the plans which are promoted in the Conference.

Need for Spiritual Power

This Conference is planned so as to give one a working knowledge of the technique of evangelism or the mechanics, the organization which is essential to the most effective evangelistic crusade. It is necessary that we use all the knowledge we can acquire of the best methods of evangelism, methods which have proven effective through the years. Every evangelist and pastor can testify to the effectiveness of sound methods of

preparation, publicity, and organization for an evangelistic meeting. They can also testify to the disappointment when such preparation is lacking.

However, this Evangelistic Conference is designed primarily to emphasize the need for spiritual power, the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Mechanics are all right in their place, but mechanics will not run by themselves. An automobile is a marvelous piece of machinery, but it must have a power plant for its operation. Our organizations, plans, and programs must have the dynamic of the Holy Spirit if they are effective in evangelism. It is the purpose of this Evangelistic Conference to call us back to the fountain of all power and to remind us of our dependence upon God for the results of the crusade which we have planned.

Let us determine now that we will go forward together in revival and evangelism, uniting our forces, our organizations, our methods, and our prayers in the greatest of all adventures of life, the winning of lost souls to Christ and the enlistment of saved souls in our Lord's service.

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Will the U. S. Let Rome Get By With It?

It is reported that United States and Spanish military authorities have reached an agreement in principle under which the Roman Catholic Church in Spain would have the right to forbid mixed marriages of American citizens stationed in that country. Concern has been expressed that some clauses in the agreement would conflict with the U. S. Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom. The question that should concern the United States government is whether or not it will allow the Roman Catholic Church to set itself up above the Constitution of the United States in the matter of the religious freedom of United States citizens.

Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, 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." (The above quotations are taken from the Baptist Press release of January 2.)

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

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There is surely no better time to pray than when others are asleep. The wings of prayer can take us all around the world, joining the missionaries and native Christians in blessed intercession.

Business Yields to Public Pressure

A drive sponsored by church and PTA groups against lurid comics and pocket novels resulted in 137 Safeway stores in six western states discontinuing the sale of this literature. The states involved are: Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico.

Some weeks ago Colorado district attorneys met in Denver to discuss legislation which would enable them to handle the problem of the sale of objectionable literature in the state. They reported that pressures against the objectionable books was "building up all over the state."

This is an example of an aroused public making its will felt among the circles of conscienceless business.

The people of Arkansas could produce the same wholesome results if they would make a concerted effort to that end. The church people of Arkansas and the PTA organizations could ban not only objectionable literature from grocery and drug stores in the state but they could also ban the sale of beer from grocery stores and hard liquor from drug stores.

It is an affront to the Christian conscience to go into a grocery store and find great

stacks of beer staring you in the face. It is a challenge to the Christian conscience to go into a drug store and be faced with a display of hard liquors.

But the Christian conscience of Arkansas seems to be subdued, intimidated and rendered inactive in the face of these glaring insults.

A voice raised here and there against these unethical practices by business firms is drowned amid the din of commerce that preys upon the depravities of human nature for the sole purpose of getting gain.

Instead of a voice now and then being raised in protest, there should be a chorus of voices constantly increasing in volume and magnitude until it drowns the hawkers of this evil business and is heard in the legislative chambers of the state and its municipalities.

The publishers and distributors of lurid comic books, the makers and sellers of liquor, fear neither God nor the devil, but they fear an aroused public. You may be sure that when the public makes its will known against the sale of lurid comic books, beer, hard liquor in grocery and drug stores, these business institutions will yield to the public demand.

Kingdom Progress

Music Director for Baring Cross Church



DR. HERBERT M. CECIL

Dr. Herbert M. Cecil, Chairman of the Music Department at Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, recently became director of music for the Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, Dr. D. David Garland, pastor.

Dr. Cecil is a native of Nebraska. He received the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska; Master's Degree and Ph. D. from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Cecil taught school seven years; spent three years in the U. S. Navy during World War II, and served as music director for the Maplewood Baptist Church in St. Louis.

Mrs. Cecil teaches speech in the public schools in Arkadelphia. They are the parents of three children.

Home Life Editor to Conduct Study Tour

A home life study tour in connection with the 1955 Jubilee Baptist World Congress will be conducted by Dr. Joe W. Burton, editor of *Home Life*, the Baptist Sunday School Board's Christian family magazine. The five weeks trip by air tentatively includes Spain, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Italy, Paris, and London.

College credit for the tour is offered by Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. The tour also offers alternate travel by boat across the Atlantic and an optional month's additional seminar in Switzerland. Write Dr. Burton for further details.

Baptist Growth

Baptists can step up their present growth. For example: It took Southern Baptists fifty-five years to reach their first million in Training Union enrolment. This year's report reveals that we reached our second million in six years.

Also, it took Southern Baptists fifty years, 1845 to 1895, to reach 575,000 in Sunday school enrolment. Our 1954 gain alone exceeded this number.

—Survey Bulletin.

Manila on the March

The First Church, Manila, Guy D. Magee, pastor, has just completed a new mission building with auditorium and six classrooms in the northwest section of Manila. The new buildings were entered on January 2 and Pastor Magee will preach at the mission each Sunday morning at 9:45 and the Brotherhood of the Manila Church will conduct the Sunday evening services.

Another indication of the progress of the Manila Church is the fact that the Sunday school has been awarded the Standard Banner for a standard Sunday school for 1954-55. This is the second year the Manila Sunday school has been awarded the Standard Banner. The slogan of the Sunday school is, "A Better Sunday School Is My Business." On the wall of the church corridor, sixty Sunday school workers' diplomas are displayed. Many of these diplomas carry the red, blue, and gold seals. Some of the teachers are ready to receive the advanced diploma.

Scotch Pastor in Pine Bluff

Pastor E. W. Johnson of the Calvary Church, Pine Bluff, has engaged Dr. Sidlow Baxter, pastor of the Charlotte Chapel Baptist Church of Scotland for a week of meetings, January 16-23. He extends an invitation to the pastors and churches in the area of Pine Bluff to take advantage of this opportunity to hear this pastor from Scotland. We give his invitation below:

"My church is having a man with us which I regard as one of the best Bible expositors living today. He is Dr. Sidlow Baxter, pastor of the Charlotte Chapel Baptist Church, the largest Baptist church in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Our services will be held at 9:30 in the morning and 7:30 in the evening. The meeting will begin Sunday morning, January 16, and continue through Sunday night, January 23.

"We want to invite you and your people to share with us the blessings of having this great man of God with us for this Bible conference revival."

New Intermediate Worker Appointed at Baptist Board

Allen B. Comish, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., has been named superintendent of Intermediate Sunday School Work, at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Comish will assume his duties Jan. 15. He succeeds Dr. E. Stanley Williamson, who has been appointed secretary of Co-operative Field Promotion in the Sunday School Department of the Board.

A native of Louisiana, Comish was formerly associate pastor of the First Baptist Church, Brunswick, Ga. He is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana College, has a M.R.E. degree from New Orleans Seminary, and has completed his work, except a thesis, for a doctorate in religious education.

Notice

The Youth Revival Clinic which was scheduled to be held January 14-15, at Ouachita College, has been canceled.

Baptist Student Union Department
Jean Protiva, Office Secretary.

Student Missions Conference At New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is planning a Student Missions Conference to be held the weekend of February 25-27. Under the sponsorship of the Department of Missions, the conference is expected to be one of the most significant missionary efforts ever undertaken by the Department. Ministerial and missionary students throughout the Southern Baptist Convention may attend simply by sending \$1 registration fee to Miss Helen Falls, assistant professor of Missions, who is in charge of conference arrangements.

The primary aim of the conference is to guide missionary students in the selection of pre-seminary courses which will enable them to do maximum seminary work. In addition the conference will provide these students with pre-appointment information from the mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. Representatives of the Boards and a group of missionaries will acquaint the students with the methods and opportunities on the mission fields now served by Southern Baptists.

The "meat" of the conference will be the contribution of outstanding missionary statesmen. Among these will be Dr. John Caylor, Dr. Lewis Martin, Mr. Edwin Dozier, and Dr. Ben Lawton. Mr. Elmer West, Jr. and Miss Edna Frances Dawkins will furnish the latest information of Board requirements which all students should have before they apply for appointment.

Additional detail on the conference may be secured by writing Miss Helen Falls in care of the Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans 22, Louisiana.

"Altar Fires" Contributors To Home Life, to Meet

The annual conference for "Altar Fires" contributors to *Home Life*, Christian family magazine for Southern Baptists, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will be held Jan. 13. Those who will be in attendance to work together on suggestions for materials for 1956 are: Mrs. Woodson Armes, Fort Worth, Texas; Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., Pensacola, Fla.; Dr. James W. Parrish, Miami, Fla.; Mrs. Sibyl Brame Townsend, New Orleans, La.; Rev. Ford Deusner, Glendale, Ky.; Mrs. J. C. Ledbetter, Silver Spring, Md.; Rev. Donald F. Ackland and Dr. Albert McClellan, Nashville.

Baptist Folks and Facts

The 191-member executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in the December meeting in Dallas appropriated \$1,049,926 for state missions and elected Perry F. Webb, pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, chairman of the board.

There are twice as many Southern Baptist churches in Oregon-Washington as there were four years ago. They now number 94 with 10,216 members. Sunday School enrolment is 15,383.

A light airplane, a gift of the Holloway Street Baptist Church, Durham, N. C., with the help of several other churches in North Carolina, one in South Carolina, and one in Texas, was presented to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. John S. Oliver, Southern Baptist missionary to the state of Plau, Brazil, will use the plane.

—Baptist Press.

Items of Interest

By Religious News Service

Methodists Report Record Gifts to Colleges

Methodist colleges and universities received a record total of more than \$28,000,000 in special gifts during 1954, it was announced by the denomination's Board of Education.

Officials said the figure may reach \$40,000,000 as some of the 116 schools related to the Board did not report in time to be included in the year-end tabulations.

The Board listed more than \$17,000,000 in gifts from individuals and church groups, and \$11,000,000 in grants from foundations. Single grants of \$100,000 or more were reported in 22 schools.

The biggest gift, \$5,000,000 to Emory University, Atlanta, was made by an anonymous foundation. It gave \$4,000,000 for endowment of Emory's School of Medicine, and \$1,000,000 for a clinic. Emory also received \$2,000,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, and \$435,000 from the late Mrs. Frances Winship Walters, Atlanta, for a memorial Chair of Pediatrics.

Among the Church's smaller schools, Albion College in Albion, Mich., received the largest gift — \$1,300,000 from the Kresge Foundation for new buildings.

Dulles Says State Dept. To Review Spanish Agreement

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said the text of the military agreement with Spain on the religious rights of United States Air Force chaplains and servicemen at air bases in that country would be subject to review by the State Department before becoming effective.

Mr. Dulles was asked about the Department's position in the controversy over the proposed limitation of the rights of Americans to marry while serving in Spain.

He said the text of the agreement had not reached Washington yet. But he added that Air Force representatives in Madrid had initialed the past "ad referendum," meaning that it must be referred to Washington for approval.

When it is received in Washington, it will be given careful consideration by both the Defense and State Departments, the Secretary said.

Woman Who Inspired Santa Claus Editorial Stresses Spiritual Meaning

Mrs. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas whose letter to the *New York Sun* 57 years ago about Santa Claus inspired an editorial since reprinted all over the world, says that the spiritual message of the editorial has become "more and more significant" through the passing years.

Her comment was made in a letter sent to the Rev. Irenaeus Herscher O.F.M., Librarian of St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N. Y., along with a proof sheet of the original editorial for the college library.

Mrs. Douglas, then eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, wrote *The Sun* in the fall of 1897 to say that some of her little friends had claimed there was no Santa Claus and to ask for "the truth—is there a Santa Claus?"

The Sun's answer, printed September 21, 1897, said:

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

"Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not even the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

"No Santa Claus? Thank God, he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Mrs. Douglas, now 65 and a grandmother, is principal of Public School 31 in New York City.

"As a child," she said in her letter to Father Herscher, "I heard only the answer to the material nature of my question. But with the years, its spiritual message becomes more and more significant."

Argentine Decree Aids Non-Catholic Work

A decree permitting non-Catholic religious organizations to work in hospitals and charitable institutions "on the same basis the Roman Catholic Church does now" was issued in Buenos Aires by Interior Minister Angel Borlenghi, who also is acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

The decree spoke of the "work of human solidarity performed by different religious organizations" and said that in the future members of all denominations would be authorized to visit any institutions where "spiritual and material help can be given."

Court Upholds Right of Boy To Choose Religion

In a 5 to 2 decision, the New York Court of Appeals upheld the right of a 12-year-old child to choose his own religion despite a pre-marital pact by his now-separated parents.

By its ruling the State's highest court affirmed a decision by the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court last February, permitting the youth to follow the religion of his mother.

The legal fight centered around Malcolm Martin of Brooklyn, N. Y., a Roman Catholic, and his wife, Clara, a Christian Scientist.

Mr. Martin carried the case to the New York Court of Appeals after the Appellate Division upheld a decision by Brooklyn Supreme Court official referee Meier Steinbrink.

The referee held then that the boy could attend Christian Science Sunday school and public school if he so desired although Mrs. Martin, prior to her marriage in a Catholic church in 1938, had agreed that any children of the union would be raised as Catholics.

Judge Steinbrink's ruling followed testimony by the youth that he preferred public schools to Catholic schools and that he would become a Christian Scientist if his mother wished.

The Court of Appeals majority decision said there was ample evidence to support Judge Steinbrink's findings that Malcolm Jr. was old enough to testify intelligently. They added that the referee's ruling was in the boy's best interest and welfare.

Why Fear Death?

Paul speaks of death as the last enemy which Christ has put under his feet. Yet the fear of death haunts a vast multitude today, even Christians who believe in the resurrection and in Christ's victory over death. Pastors know how trying is the ordeal that is often undergone at a funeral where the pagan concept of death still prevails.

In a recent issue of *Home Life*, Dr. S. L. Morgan of Wake Forest, North Carolina had an article entitled "Why Fear Death?" It is one of the most complete answers that I have ever read to the dread that most of us feel as we contemplate the personal experience of death. Upon reading the article and learning that it was available as a reprint, I requested sufficient copies to supply students in my seminary class who were at the time studying with me the responsibility of the minister in conducting funerals and dealing constructively with the bereaved.

Dr. M. A. Huggins, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, was so impressed with the article that he ordered a quantity of the reprints. I understand that a copy may be had on request from Dr. Huggins, 119 Hillsboro Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The wide circulation of this article will bring comfort to many.

*Dr. Gaines S. Dobbins, Dean
School of Religious Education
Southern Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky*

Ouachita Organizes Four Extension Centers

Ouachita college has established four extension centers and expects to organize another in the near future, it has been announced by Dr. Joseph McClain, extension director and chairman of the division of religion at Ouachita.

The present centers are located at the First Baptist churches at Berryville, DeQueen, Waldron, and Russellville. Another is being planned for El Dorado. A total of 93 are enrolled in all classes.

Ball Player Tells Of 'God's Plan'

New York Giants shortstop Alvin Dark told the student body of Louisiana (Baptist) College in Pineville, that he felt it was "part of God's plan" for him to play baseball.

Mr. Dark said that the day after he turned down a \$500 offer to endorse a cigarette brand Giants Manager Leo Durocher offered him the captaincy of the team with \$500 extra pay.

Explaining how he has become featured as a speaker on tithing, the Lake Charles, La., resident said that one day when he spoke before a group of Yonkers (N. Y.) children a photographer took his picture and the story was played up in a Yonkers newspaper.

When he talked to his hometown pastor about a deluge of requests to address groups on tithing, the preacher said, "This is the greatest thing that ever hit Lake Charles."

Since the end of the baseball season, Mr. Dark has spoken to some 20 groups, including the Texas Baptist Convention. He said he had been raised in a Christian home and has been tithing since his mother taught him to give 25 cents of the \$2.50 he earned by selling papers.

Between seasons the ball player works for the Magcobar Drilling Mud Company of Texas which provides expenses for his speaking engagements.

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Christian Horizons

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By Religious News Service

Divorce Rate Drops to Lowest Point Since War's End

The divorce rate in 1954 was apparently the lowest since the end of World War II, Surgeon General Leonard Scheele of the U. S. Public Health Service said in his annual report on vital statistics.

Although the compilation of statistics for the year will not be completed for several months, Dr. Scheele said that, on the basis of reports from 25 areas of the nation, the 1954 divorce rate dropped four per cent from comparable 1953 figures.

This represents a total reduction of about 40 percent from the postwar peak reached in 1946, he said, and continues a trend that has been in progress since that year.

Pentagon Puts Brake on Spanish Agreement

The Pentagon has instructed the United States Military Mission in Spain to sign no agreement regulating American marriages there until it has been approved in Washington.

Maj. Gen. August W. Kissner, chief of the mission, also has been told to make or authorize no public statements on the pending pact.

These instructions were contained in two messages sent to the general. In one, he was told to forward to Washington immediately the latest draft of the understanding being negotiated with Spain on the operations of U. S. chaplains in that country.

Dr. Blake Hails Servicemen As Ambassadors, Missionaries

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake of Philadelphia, president of the National Council of Churches, said he was "particularly impressed" during his three-week visit with American servicemen in the Far East by the way they are "serving America in a political sense as ambassadors and in a religious sense as missionaries."

Dr. Blake made the comment as he boarded a plane to return to the United States.

"Our servicemen are doing the best possible job in the difficult task of maintaining goodwill while on duty in a foreign land," he said, adding that they could "improve or undo a hundred years of missionary work" but that he saw "repeated evidence of their positive influence."

Church Grows From Converted Chicken House

From converted chicken house to new \$175,000 sanctuary is the story of Glenwood Hills Baptist church, just dedicated in Atlanta, Ga.

Members of the church, which was organized in 1949, met temporarily in a shelter that had formerly been a chicken house. They then held services in the basement of a partially completed building before they were able to build their own church.

Dorace M. Starnes, who conducted dedication services in the new edifice, said collection plates at that first "chicken house Sun-

Comic Book Czar Reports on Changes

The new czar of the comic book industry said in New York City he had changed 5,656 drawings and rejected 126 stories since his office was created on October 27.

Charles P. Murphy, Code Administrator for the Comics Magazine Association of America, said these drawings and stories were part of 440 comic books slated for publication early in 1955.

Mr. Murphy, who resigned as a New York City magistrate to accept his present post, made the report at a news conference in the Association's office.

Education Board Eliminates Compulsory Dancing Course

The Jefferson County Board of Education has eliminated social dancing as a compulsory course in high schools.

The action was taken after some parents protested the requirement. School officials said they did not ask the parents why they objected but believed the protests stemmed from religious scruples against dancing.

The Board of Education ordered some other form of recreation instruction substituted for dancing. The latter course will be given only to students who bring written permission from their parents.

Jefferson County has the second largest public school system in Colorado, covering nearly half the Denver suburban area.

Methodists Told of Urgent Need for Ministers

An appeal for more and better clergymen was sounded at a Methodist Conference on the ministry in Kansas City, Mo.

Bishop Edwin E. Voigt, Aberdeen, S. D., head of the Dakota area, urged the Church to find men with talent for the ministry.

"We have barely enough men to replace the annual losses through death, retirement and other things and we are far short of our needs if we think in terms of a fully manned and expanding Church.

"The first need of the ministry is to discover how to find men with as many talents as possible who will take whatever talent they have, hold it as a sacred trust and glorify it with a fruitful life."

Texas Baptists in Jamaica Preaching Mission

Fifty-eight Baptist ministers and laymen, 53 of them from Texas, participated in a week's preaching mission on the island of Jamaica, beginning January 2. The mission was sponsored by the evangelism department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The invitation to conduct the mission was made through C. W. McCullough, a Southern Baptist Convention missionary in Jamaica. He reported more than 3,000 professions of faith in 80 Baptist churches in Jamaica during a similar campaign last year.

day" yielded \$14. The church now operates on an annual budget of \$30,000.

Its first Sunday school had 35 pupils. Enrollment now stands at about 400.

A Smile or Two

During an inquest held in Cincinnati this question was put to one of the witnesses by the deputy coroner:

"Where was the deceased struck by the motor car?"

Whereupon the witness, a surgeon, replied, "At the juncture of the dorsal and cervical vertebrae."

The deputy coroner was no little puzzled. Pointing to a large map of the city which was tacked on the wall, he said: "Will you please point that out on the map!"

"What, Susanne, going to leave me?" exclaimed the lady to her French maid who was invaluable. "Going to get married? This is most unexpected."

"Oui, madame, but eet ees not my fault," responded the maid apologetically. "Eet was only last night zat your son proposed to me!"

Little Irene marched into the room breathless.

"Oh mother," she said, "don't scold me for being late for supper, because I've had such an awful disappointment. A horse fell down and they said they were going to send for a horse doctor, so I waited and waited, and what do you think? It wasn't a horse doctor at all. It was a man."

She: I was at the Dr's today. He looked at my tongue and prescribed a tonic.

He: Not a tonic! To strengthen that tongue?—

—Quote.

Herein lies the difference between the sexes: when a couple is supposed to go somewhere, the woman's 1st thought is "What shall I wear?" and the man's, "How can I get out of it?"

—Quote.

The canny Scotchman is, of course, a synonym for thrift. Ian MacDougal, about to leave on a journey, proved no exception to the rule. In his parting injunction to his wife he said:

"Noo, Janet, dinna forget to mak' wee Sandy tak' off his glasses when he's no lookin' through them."

A few years ago Helen Keller toured the country and lectured on the subject of "Happiness". After each lecture the audience was given the opportunity of asking her questions. Everything from the sublime to the ridiculous was asked. Her ready repartee was shown in the following:

Gentleman: "Can you feel colors?"

Helen Keller: "Yes—I can feel blue."

A sun-tanned contestant on The Big Payoff told M C Randy Merriman that he and his wife had just returned from Florida.

"It cost us \$40 a day at the Roney Plazma," he said.

"You mean Roney Plaza," corrected Merriman. "Plasma is blood."

"So?" ans'd the man. "And is \$40 a day rain water?"

—Quote.

Some students drink at the fountain of knowledge—others just gargle.—

—Great Western Gazette.

Many a married couple is like a team of horses — parted by a tongue.

—Times of Brazil, Sao Paulo.

News From Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Leaders Pursue Problem of Aging

A group of Southern Baptist leaders have recommended that the Christian Life Commission pursue an intensive research on the problem of the increasing numbers of the aged. Called together by A. C. Miller, Nashville, executive secretary of the Commission, the men and women asked Miller and his Commission, "To undertake a serious research of this field, including, first a presentation of facts; second, a summary of what is being done by society generally and by Baptists in particular; and third, the proposal of a comprehensive Southern Baptist program. This research would be made by competent enlisted personnel, with care being given to include representation of those affected agencies which would be expected to implement the program."

The request was formally stated in a report of the findings committee for the group consisting of Porter Routh, chairman and executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee; W. L. Howse, Baptist Sunday School Board, Wayne Oates, Louisville, Ky., A. C. Miller, Nashville, and Joe W. Burton, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The findings committee in its report also said that: "The challenge basically is related to family life and the answer to it is to be found primarily in a new solidarity in family living; institutional care as a social policy is to be thought of as an expediency when family life is unequal to the need. Churches may well consider a readjustment of program and of architecture to serve the aging, just as they have well done for infancy and the early years. We commend the Sunday School Board for the alert consideration being given to the life adjustment needs during maturity."

Martin Bradley, statistician in the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information, Baptist Sunday School Board, pointed out that recent findings of the Federal Security Agency revealed:

"There are now nearly 13,000,000 persons in the United States 65 years old and older. The number of this age is increasing by 400,000 each year. The total represents 1 in 12 of the population today compared to only 1 in 25 in 1900. Of the 13,000,000 at least 10,000,000 live in households which include relatives, thus pointing up the interrelated nature of the situation. Eight of the ten states in which this age group is increasing most rapidly are in the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention. The whole new science of gerontology has been developed in recent years as an expression of the social awareness of this problem."

Dallas Church Starts "On the Job Training"

An "On the Job Training Program" has been devised by East Grand Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., for solving its leadership shortage. It does not take the place of the regular program of study courses or Training.

Once a month the church observes "On the Job Training" Sunday. Names of potential leaders are mimeographed and placed in the hands of all Sunday school officers and teachers who ask the prospects to substitute for them on the designated days. Teachers and officers "stay on the job" to observe and encourage the trainees. Before and after the "On the Job Training" Sunday prospects are

urged to attend teachers' and officers' meetings on Wednesday, study courses, associational conferences, and clinics.

"Results have been gratifying. Many of the trainees have accepted places of leadership, and we are now at the point of seeing the real fruits," says T. D. McCulloch, educational director. Joe W. Bailey is pastor.

Compere to Head Clark College

W. Lowrey Compere, pastor, Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., has accepted the post of president of Clarke Memorial College, Newton, it was announced by Horace Headrick, Laurel, president of the school's board of trustees.

Compere, pastor of Parkview church for nearly a year and a half, is a member of the school's board of trustees and formerly was board president. He went to Greenville from the pastorate of the Northside Baptist Church, Jackson.

A graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Compere succeeds W. E. Greene, assistant to the president of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall.

Clarke College is one of the four institutions of higher learning owned and operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Missions Conference Speakers Named

Frank C. Lauback, New York, N. Y., and Congressman Walter Judd have accepted invitations to speak at the World Missions Conference to be held in Fort Worth, Tex., March 21-23, 1955. Pastors and all church leaders are invited to attend the conference.

SBC Mission Gifts

Over \$800,000 in December

Mission gifts to Southern Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program for the month of December total \$848,514, Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, announced. This brings the total for the year to a record high of \$10,739,497, the largest amount Southern Baptists have ever given to the Cooperative Program.

The year's total in Cooperative Program receipts was 10.91 per cent higher, or \$1,056,136 than the 1953 total of \$9,683,360, Routh said.

Designated gifts received for the month amounted to \$106,227, bringing the year's total in designated contributions to \$6,155,876. This figure is 8.46 per cent, or \$480,094 higher than the same period last year.

Total gifts for all Southern Baptist causes including Cooperative Program and Designated, received came to \$954,742 making the total for the year \$16,895,373. This is the largest amount ever contributed to Southern Baptist causes. This figure shows an increase of \$1,536,230 or 10 per cent over 1953's grand total of \$15,359,142.

Increase in gifts for 1954 over 1953 was seen in every state in the Southern Baptist Convention even in areas of hard droughts, except Virginia. An increase of 10.91 per cent in Cooperative Program receipts and 10 per cent increase in all total receipts was shown for the year, Routh said.

Total Advance Program gifts for the year was \$1,889,497, an increase of \$398,136 over 1953's figure of \$1,491,360. Of this amount of Advance Program receipts \$1,297,123 went to the Foreign Mission Board and \$432,374

Counselor's Corner

By DR. R. LOFTON HUDSON

MAD SON-IN-LAW

Question: My son-in-law will not go to church and tries to keep my daughter and her four children from going. He curses and says the most shocking things to me. Recently my daughter joined the church but he refuses to let her be baptized. Last week end I kept the children after Sunday school so that she could go to church. Oh my was he mad!

Should I continue to try to get her to go to church or leave them alone? Church seems to be the only matrimonial difference this couple has.

Answer: Mothers-in-law are usually not quite the best ones to help sons-in-law. Actually this young man may not be half as mad at you as he seems. He just doesn't want you rearing his children.

I believe that I would depend on prayer and Christian love to win this young man. The direct methods do not seem to work. And I would encourage the daughter to be faithful to Christ and at the same time love her husband with a mature love. Stand by this family and stand out of their way, is the best Christian advice I know.

If you have reared a good girl, she will not depart from it, especially if Christ is really in her heart.

to the Home Mission Board. Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., received \$160,000 of the Advance Program receipts.

Of the total receipts for 1954 the Foreign Mission Board received \$9,439,491 or 55.87 per cent. The Home Mission Board received \$2,966,247 or 17.56 per cent.

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Hallock Named Director Rio Publishing House

Dr. Edgar F. Hallock, Jr., Southern Baptist missionary, has been made director of the Baptist Publishing House, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by the unanimous vote of the Brazilian Baptist Sunday School Board. He succeeds Missionary T. B. Stover, who died May 11, 1954.

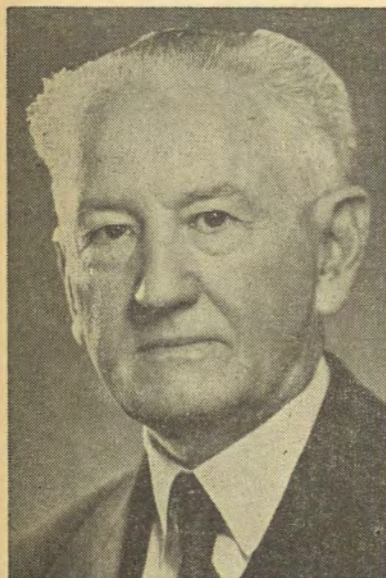
Dr. Hallock, a native of Penfield, N. Y., was graduated from the University of Oklahoma with the B.A. degree and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with the degrees of Master of Religious Education and Doctor of Religious Education. He served as co-pastor of the First Baptist Church, Handley, Tex., before the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed him a missionary to Brazil in 1941.

Dr. Hallock was made director of the Sunday School Department of the Brazilian Baptist Sunday School Board in 1943. In addition to the major responsibility on the mission field, he has carried many others such as being co-pastor of the Zumbi and Itacurussa Baptist Churches, Rio. He was professor in the South Brazil Baptist Seminary in Rio for eight years.

He married Zelma Curnutt, of Gould, Okla., in 1939. They have four children, Virjama Ruth, 13; Charlotte Ardelle, 10; Harold Edgar, 7; and Jack Robert, four.

Election to the new position came on December 8, just 10 days before the Hallock family was to have left for a year's furlough in the States. Their furlough address is 622 South Ponca, Norman, Okla.

Attend State-Wide Evangelistic Conference



T. L. Holcomb



Orville Yeager



Ra

THEME: Forward - - Together

These Personalities Guarantee a Great Heartwa

WHO? *All Pastors, Educational and M
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of Evangelism, and other church leaders, S
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*Arkansas Baptists Are Joining S
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C. Y. Dossey



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Every Church In It

PREPARATION
Follow Step by Step Program

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Two Full

First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Jan. 24-25-26



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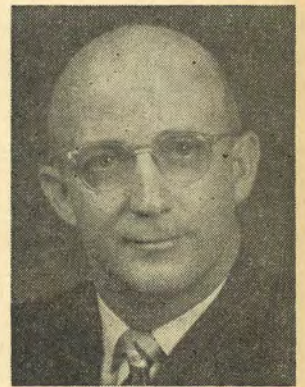
In Revival and Evangelism

ing, Soul-stirring, Preacher-transforming Program.

Directors, Associational Chairmen of Evan-
Committees, all members of Church Councils
ay School Superintendents, Training Union
nts, should attend this Conference.

thern Baptists in the **GREATEST**
c Crusade of **ALL TIME** in 1955.

ment of Evangelism
Secretary



W. O. Vaught

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER



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Vernon Yearby



W. M. Walker



A. B. VanArsdale



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Roe Matthews



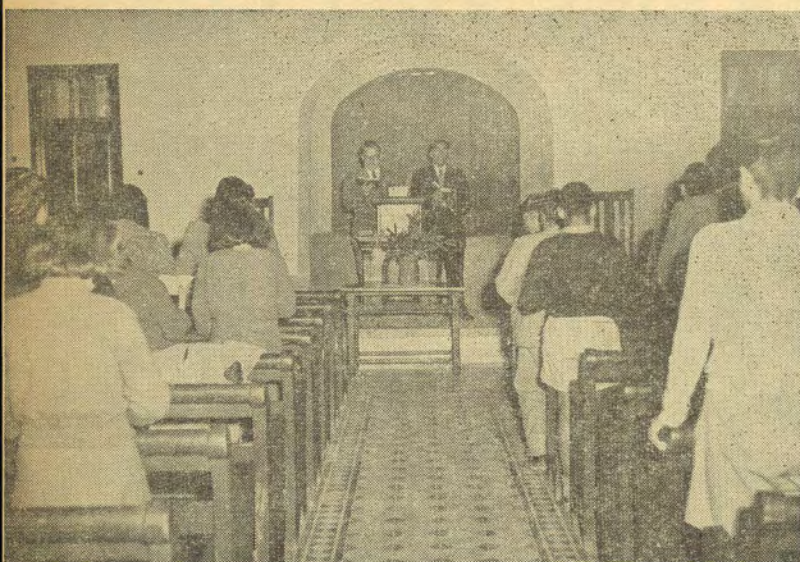
Roy Lambert

ANCE
s Preaching

PRAYER
Prayer Changes Things

Will Assure Success

A Baptist Service In Nazareth



A service in the Baptist Church at Nazareth, Israel. J. Becker, pastor, joins with Dr. R. Lindsey, pastor of the Baptist Congregation in Jerusalem, in extending an invitation to Baptist leaders in the United States to visit Israel after the Baptist World Alliance in London. The invitation states in part: "We who are Baptist pastors and workers in Israel want to tell you how welcome you will be in Israel, and urge you to spend as much time in the Near East as you can. You will want to visit

the headquarters of our work in Jerusalem, the new building of the George W. Truett Home near Tel Aviv, and our fast-growing school and church in Nazareth."

—000—

GOOD—EVIL

No effort for good is ever wasted. It disappears from your view, but only to fall into the world of causes, into the soil of wisdom, to be watered by love and again brought to bloom.

—Temple Artisan.

Progress at Leonard Church



The Leonard Church of Rector has just completed a new auditorium equipped with new pews and new pulpit furniture. The old building has been converted into eight Sunday school rooms. The dedication service for the new building was held on December 5 with Dr. F. E. Wright, dean of Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, bringing the dedicatory address.

Vance Marberry is the pastor of the Leonard Church, having come

to this field on April 19, 1953. There have been 44 additions to the church during the ministry of Pastor Marberry and one young man has been set apart to the ministry. Gifts to missions have been raised to twelve per cent. This percentage was not lowered during the building program.

The new facilities will enable the church to care for an increased number both in Sunday school and worship services.

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A gift of lasting thoughtfulness that provides hours of comfort for invalids... and relaxation and warmth for bed-readers! Can be put on and removed while in bed. Made of finest sanforized flannel "Velvelette" with hand detailing and workmanship.



Solid colors in two styles. Ladies in pink or blue . . . men's in Chalk Green or Fawn Brown. Small, Med. or Large.



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Ladies: Size _____ Color _____
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(As a special introductory offer we will pay postage & insurance)
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

North Carolina Department Store Abandons Window Merchandising During Christmas Week

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

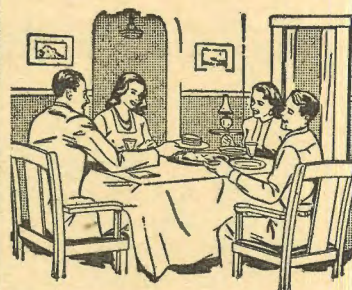
One of Greensboro's largest department stores, Ellis, Stone and Co., abandoned all merchandising efforts in its window displays during Christmas week and substituted five Nativity scenes.

Bruce Crawford, advertising manager, said that as far as he knew no major department store in North Carolina ever has devoted all of its window display space to Nativity scenes during Christmas week.

"People say there should be more Christ put back into Christmas so we thought it would be a good move for somebody to start doing it," he said. "We've asked all the members of the ministerial association for comment on it. If it receives favorable attention, we intend to do it again next year."

The displays showed the shepherds in their fields, the Angel appearing before them, the shepherds following the Star of Bethlehem, the approach of the Wise Men and the manger scene.

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Accredited Academically
Orthodox in Doctrine
Reasonable in Rates
Friendly Campus
Spiritual Atmosphere
APPLICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT ONCE
H. D. Bruce, President

Church Music School At Immanuel Church

Pulaski County Baptist Association will sponsor the Fourth Annual School of Church Music January 31 to February 4, 1955. Classes are scheduled to meet at Immanuel Baptist Church, Tenth and Bishop Streets, Little Rock, each evening from 6:45 to 9 o'clock.

A superior faculty, headed by Mrs. Haskell Boyter of Atlanta, Georgia, has been recruited for the occasion. Mrs. Boyter is a national figure in the field of Children's Choir Methods and is making her second appearance in the state this year. Her work in the school will include a Seminar for leaders, a demonstration of various age-group choirs and a survey of the best in materials and procedure for workers with children's choirs.

The demonstration choirs will be presented at 6:45 each evening — Celestial (ages 4-5) on Monday, Cherub (ages 6-7-8) Tuesday, Carol (9-12) Wednesday, Concord (13-16) Thursday, and Church (adult) Friday. All participating churches (those sending registration fee of \$10) may send an unlimited number of people from that church to attend the classes and also six people for each age group choir, provided they agree to teach the required music in advance. Individuals from non-participating churches may register separately.

Dinner Meeting on Opening Night

At 5:30 on Monday evening, January 31, pastors, music directors and accompanists will meet with the faculty for a "Dutch Treat" dinner at which Mrs. Boyter will be the principal speaker.

Schedule of Classes

5:30 (Monday only) Dutch Treat

*Church Music Department
Sue Maynard, Office Secretary*

HEADS FACULTY



MRS. HASKELL BOYTER

- Dinner for pastors, music directors and accompanists.
- 6:45 (Monday through Friday) Demonstration of Choirs.
- 7:30-9:00 (Monday through Friday) Simultaneous Classes. Fundamentals I — Mrs. Ray Thomas.
- Fundamentals II — Mrs. Bob Pilcher.
- Hymn Studies — Leroy McClard.
- Class Voice—George Starke.
- Music in Evangelism—Hatcher Hoyt & John Gilbreath.
- Class for Accompanists — Edwin S. Irely.
- Children's Choir Methods — Mrs. Haskell Boyter, Atlanta, Georgia.

Let's Go Forward In 1955

The New Year is here, and already the days of 1955 are flitting by. This is in reality a TIME OF BEGINNING with so many people. Business men of every type—merchants, manufacturers, farmers, traders—are all beginning to put into operation their plans to make 1955 a good business year. No live, wide awake man will want to make this a year of coasting, of resting on the successes of the past, or being fearful of the future, because of uncertain prospects or unpleasant experiences or failures in the days gone by. This is a time for all to look and march forward toward the future with confident hopes and expectations.

In probably no other single realm do we find more enlarged vision and confident plans for the future than in our churches. This is being said with special reference to our Baptist churches. As we here at Baptist Headquarters in various and countless ways get news and reports of "the work" over the state, it seems safe to summarize our findings somewhat as follows: Churches are setting out to win more lost people to Christ in 1955 than in any year of the past. They are planning to enlarge their training and teaching programs — Sunday schools, Training Unions, Brotherhoods, and Missionary Unions — and to enlarge their physical facilities and enlist workers needed for such expanded programs. Then there is the corresponding need for more finances that every church faces when it would make an earnest effort to take as personal the words of the Lord when He said to Moses, "Speak to my people that they go forward." Almost every church is starting out the new year with an enlarged financial program and budget and will endeavor to lead the people to be better stewards and to put more

tithes and offerings into the treasuries of the local churches. One concrete evidence of the purpose of our churches to really go forward in 1955 is the almost unanimous increase in the allotment to the Cooperative Program for the new year. For any church to put more into co-operative missions is the best expression of the desire and intent of that church to go forward.

In keeping with the plans and purpose of our churches to make 1955 a great year, the various departments here at Baptist Headquarters are endeavoring to keep step. We are trying to be ever mindful of our responsibilities and of the tasks imposed upon each of us to perform well and faithfully our several duties. We are here to serve Arkansas Baptists and to work with them in helping make this our greatest year for the Lord.

In conclusion we must say that we want the Arkansas Baptist Foundation to make its full contribution to this great year of 1955. More of the great multitude of Arkansas Baptists should be informed about the Baptist Foundation, and we earnestly want them to realize more fully the important place the Foundation has in our Baptist program. We want to see more of our Baptist people and friends dedicate some of their money and other possessions to the Baptist Foundation for the support of our Baptist causes and institutions. But for our people to do this we again say they must first be informed about the Baptist Foundation and then encouraged to make gifts and bequests to it. To thus inform and encourage the people, it is the plan and purpose of your Foundation Secretary to continue to take every opportunity to tell the people about the Foundation. It is his plan and purpose to accept every possible invitation to speak at any and all types of meetings, such as regular church services, prayer meetings, W.M.U. and Brotherhood meetings, and associational meetings.

The Foundation must also look to the pastors of our churches to keep before their congregations the work of their Baptist Foundation, and to talk to and encourage individual members to give it their support.

We earnestly invite our pastors and all others to join in helping carry forward the work of the Baptist Foundation in 1955, to the end that the Foundation may have more financial support for our Baptist work and at the same time give men and women a greater opportunity to be good stewards.

*W. A. Jackson, Secretary
Arkansas Baptist
Foundation*

enrolment present, but will go for their prospects.

For that reason the census should be taken early.

After The Census, What?

By CHARLES L. MCKAY

Too many times people have gone out and worked hard taking a religious census only to have the census cards filed away somewhere in a church office never to be used.

1. **Process the census cards** — Keep all cards of those
 - (1) Enrolled in Sunday School.
 - (2) Resident church members not in Sunday school.
 - (3) Baptists (unaffiliated)
 - (4) Baptist preference
 - (5) No denominational preference.
2. **Set up a prospect file** — Be sure that every prospect is in the file in proper order, graded by departments and classes according to the way your Sunday school is graded.
3. **Build an organization adequate to reach the prospects** — That means that some churches should start some new Sunday school departments and some new

classes. Associational Sunday school officers can help create the right kind of spirit in an association so that each church in the association will step up the pattern to fit the need. New classes and departments that are created just preceding the evangelistic crusade will prove most helpful and beneficial. Often times these new units will work much harder at the task of enlisting and reaching people. Small units, on the average, can be counted on for better efficiency. Teachers can do a better job of promoting attendance and enlisting lost people and unaffiliated Baptists in the services where the classes or units are small.

4. **Make the proper assignments of all prospects.**
5. **Promote a program of regular visitation in order to get the prospects enlisted in Bible study**

before the crusade if possible — At any rate these prospects will become the responsibilities of those units to which they are assigned.

6. **Visitation during the revival** — Sunday school classes will fill your house of worship every night during the revival if approached in time and in the right spirit. In the event your church has services in the day during the crusade Adult classes will do a good job of promoting the morning attendance. But by all means charge every class in your Sunday school with the responsibility of filling the pews at every service every night. If your Sunday school is well-graded and if the prospects are properly assigned teachers can be enlisted to put those prospects into the services.

The writer has seen Sunday schools put more people into the services at night during a revival than they had enrolled. If challenged to do so, Sunday school workers will not only get their

Bible Evangelism

By S. C. SWINNEY, SR.

Genoa, Arkansas

Much has, and is being said about evangelism, especially during 1955. A slogan has been proposed, "Every Church Revived in 1955." Our minds are centered upon the great evangelistic crusade proposed for 1955. Therefore, it becomes necessary for us to re-study the fundamentals of evangelism.

What constitutes real evangelism? A brief Bible answer might be given by saying it must be Christ-centered. Regardless of how well prepared the evangelist may be from an educational standpoint his message must be undergirded by the power of Christ and directed by the Holy Spirit. The same power that wrought miracles during Christ's personal ministry on the demonized and palsied, the lame man at the beautiful gate of the temple, on Saul on the Damascus road, the lame man at Lydda, the body of the dead person at Joppa, this same power is essential in present day evangelism. Without this power strengthening our human efforts the message will be powerless.

No greater responsibility ever rested upon moral man than when he stands facing an eternity-bound congregation. He is God's man with God's message to direct the souls of men to a right acceptance of God's offer of eternal life. No man is equal to this tremendous task unless he is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God's messenger must realize he is speaking to many in his congregation who are dead in sin. We were shapened in sin and iniquity,

therefore possess a mind susceptible to sin. No power can awaken a dead sinner except the Holy Spirit. But when awakened he is powerless to save himself. When awakened from our dead state by the Holy Spirit, we become conscious of a sorrow for sins against our Christ.

Contrition leads us to turn from our sins (repent). Turning from sin we must turn to Christ, and Him alone with a faith that enables us to trust Christ as Savior.

The little company of Christians on Pentecost were united in loyalty, they had an active purpose, they were assured of God, and as a result they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. When we become Christ-empowered and Holy Spirit directed we shall preach the choice between two masters—Christ the Savior or Satan the destroyer; a choice between two deaths—the death of bliss and a death of despair; a choice between two resurrections—a resurrection unto everlasting life and a resurrection unto shame and everlasting contempt; a choice between two positions at the judgment—the right hand and the left hand of the Judge; a choice between two destinies—an eternal destiny with Christ and His people in heaven and an eternal destiny with Satan and his emissaries in hell.

What a joy to know when hundreds of Southern Baptist ministers are preaching these great Bible truths during the 1955 evangelistic crusade!

Mr. G. W. Puryear, Master Builder

By W. B. LANGFORD

Jonesboro, Arkansas

A master builder is one who knows how to select, prepare, and assemble the proper material for the construction of the building contemplated. When this is done and the building perfected, he is called to the desk of the paymaster and rewarded for his labor.

I do not think of Mr. Puryear as being a master builder of a material type, and I do not know that he has had any experience along that line. But I like to think of him as a master builder of a spiritual house.

Mr. Puryear, by reason of his home training and his school and college career, was prepared to go into the forest of God, created humanity, and select there from the individuals, personalities, and influences and bring into his life and make it a part of his material for his spiritual house. As an evidence that he has been able to select the best of material, we

would call attention his friends, who are the highest type citizens among us.

Mr. Puryear has finished his house beautiful on earth. The saw and hammer he used on this spiritual structure have fallen from his hands and ceased to be heard. He has been called to the desk of the Great Paymaster in God's kingdom where he is being rewarded for the labors.

If we were permitted to see Mr. Puryear's face when he received his reward, we would not see an expression of disappointment, but rather an expression of joy.

He has received one hundred per cent on the spiritual dollar for his spiritual labors rendered on earth.

There is a striking difference between the check given for labor on the material house from that of the spiritual house. The check of the material type when once cashed is soon exhausted and

The Brotherhood Can Help

The year 1955 promises to be a good one for the promotion of Royal Ambassador work by your Brotherhood Department. Major steps will be taken during this year to correlate the activities leading to the transfer of Royal Ambassadors to the Brotherhood Department in 1957.

ROYAL AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE

Each church in the state is urged to elect a Royal Ambassador Committee. The Royal Ambassador Committee should be made up of men and women in your church who are interested in Royal Ambassador work. These may be members of the Brotherhood and W. M. U.

The work of this committee will be:

1. Help secure counselors and assist when called upon by the counselor.
2. Provide adequate material for the chapter in order that it might carry on its work in the proper manner.
3. Serve as a reviewing council to examine the boys who are ready to pass ranks.
4. Promote special activities that will create interest and further the cause of Royal Ambassadors in your church.
5. The committee should meet quarterly; and a special meeting may be called at any time by the chairman.

SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM

The Royal Ambassador camping program has been changed for this year. The camp at Ravenden Springs will not be held this year. Boys from that section of the state will be encouraged to attend the camps at Ferncliff Springs. The date and place for the Intermediate camp has not been determined due to the need of a place to have it. As soon as information can be obtained, we will let you know.

The Junior camps will be held at Ferncliff Springs, Ferndale, Arkansas. The dates are: First Week, July 11-15; Second Week, July 18-22. Each camp opens at 5:00 p.m. on Monday and closes at noon on Friday. The camps are limited to 150 for each period. Boys who plan to attend should send a \$1.00 reservation fee to Royal Ambassadors, 309 Baptist Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Upon arrival at camp you will pay \$12.50. This fee of \$13.50 includes room, board, mission study book, and insurance.

gone, but Mr. Puryear's check, given him by the Heavenly Paymaster is not one that is exhausted and squandered upon the first presentation, but can be presented daily throughout eternity and cashed full face value in joy and happiness to the fullest extent of Mr. Puryear's capacity to enjoy.

ROYAL AMBASSADOR CONGRESS

The Second Annual Royal Ambassador Congress will be held at the Second Baptist Church of Little Rock, May 6-7. The Congress includes all boys from 9-16 years.

This year the State Recognition Service will be held on Friday night, May 6. The boys of Arkansas always look forward to this wonderful occasion which recognizes them for their accomplishments during the year.

YOU CAN HELP

The Royal Ambassador chapter in your church needs your help during the coming year. Many of the events sponsored by Royal Ambassadors will give you an opportunity to help. Your local counselor will need your help in carrying out the program of the local chapter. As you read these lines, ask yourself, what can my Brotherhood do to help the Royal Ambassadors in my church?

OTHER ROYAL AMBASSADOR ACTIVITIES

February — Time for Mission Study — New Home Mission Series
March — Home Mission Season of Prayer — February 28-March 4.
September — State Mission Season of Prayer — September 19.

October — Time for Mission Study — New Foreign Mission Series.

November — Royal Ambassador Focus Week — November 6-12
Royal Ambassador Fellowship Supper — November 14.

December — Foreign Mission Season of Prayer — November 28 — December 2.

Brotherhood Department
Nelson Tull, Secretary
J. D. Wagon, Associate

—000—

Christ in your life will

- launch a love that is mature.
- prompt a purity that is genuine.
- rally a righteousness that is of God.
- forge a forgiveness that forgets.

—Austin Ingram

—000—

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

—Cervantes.



Shifting Gears

By DUKE K. MCCALL

The Southern Baptist Convention is currently shifting gears. If that figure implies that the Convention does not have a modern hydromatic transmission, it will be correct.

Incidentally, and illustrative of nothing, I picked up a new story indicative of the march of progress while at Ridgecrest this past summer. What used to be "Shiftless hillbillies" have become "hydromatic mountaineers." The Convention is shifting from a "cash on the barrel head" to a "business-uses-credit-so-can-we" basis for our work. The shift is taking place more in the actions of the agencies. The little known fact of the matter is that the Southern Baptist Convention has never been out of debt since 1929. At the very meeting of the S.B.C. Executive Committee in 1943 at which it was announced that the Hundred Thousand Club had paid off the last of the 6 million dollar obligation which threatened to sink the Convention, there was the announcement that yet another agency had 3 million dollars of future obligations with no funds to cover them. Even so, perhaps you remember the slogan: "Debt-free in '43," "Owe no more in '44,"

"In debt in '45, and we'll skin you alive."

TIMES ARE CHANGING

For a while Dr. John Buchanan of Birmingham, Ala. led the crusade to keep the Convention agencies from incurring any kind of debt. The Radio Commission got a royal spanking for running in the red about 60 thousand dollars one year. But times are changing.

The attitude of the Convention was illustrated in the Miami Convention in 1952 when, despite the vigorous opposition of Louie Newton, the messengers voted to authorize a million and a quarter dollar debt in order to erect the Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Dr. Newton's arguments against debt were sound, but Southern Baptists had decided that hospitals can produce sufficient income to service a debt.

The atmosphere in the S.B.C. Executive Committee changed. It began to authorize agencies, particularly the seminaries, to borrow money to be paid out of next year's Cooperative Program receipts. By the time this article appears, it is probable that the

S.B.C. Executive Committee will have authorized the Home Mission Board to borrow 3 million dollars, in addition to the 400 thousand already authorized and outstanding to be re-lent to new churches to assist them in building.

SUGGESTS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Instead of pretending that we are not going to use the denomination's credit to expand our work, we had better be realists and work out an intelligent set of principles to guide us. I would suggest consideration of the following:

1. The total amount to be borrowed and the precise terms of repayment should be determined in advance and rigidly adhered to.
2. Leaders should be advised that the Southern Baptist Convention does not underwrite the loans made to its agencies even when the Convention approves the agency's obtaining the loan. (If this is not done, we may end up with foreign missionaries stranded overseas while the Convention attempts to save the property of some other agency.)
3. Various legal devices such as the use of separate corporations should be employed to limit the liability or amount of collateral securing a specific loan. (South-

ern Seminary used this procedure to secure the 265 apartments in Seminary Village. A corporation known as Green Tree Manor owes a half million dollars which is to be paid out of the rentals of the apartments. Neither Southern Seminary nor any other Southern Baptist agency is legally liable for one dime of that obligation.)

4. No agency should be authorized to borrow money unless the specific project for which the loan is made will produce enough income to pay off the loan. This will automatically limit the amount of any loan.

The Southern Baptist Convention is shifting gears at one other point: more laymen are being added to the strategic places of denominational leadership. If these laymen will be aggressive and vocal, they can direct the Convention in its handling of this dangerous instrument of debt.

Properly used, I think the instrument can render real service, but whether a clumsy democracy can keep from cutting its own throat by using the instrument of debt is a question which only time will answer. I am going to be a pessimist until I see how much real leadership the experienced businessmen who are now being elected to various offices will give the denomination.

—The Tie.

An Open Letter To A Friend

Dear Walter:

It was a surprise to learn that you are an active member in the Roman Catholic Church after being educated in college and seminary for the Baptist ministry. May you find spiritual understanding and blessings there. I have known many very wonderful people who are Roman Catholics. However, I wish to say that I am glad you and I live in a country where a person may join

any church of his choice without religious persecution which is, as you very well know, not true in Italy, Spain, and other countries where the Roman Church is in power.

You can render a great service to your church and to religion in the world if you will use your influence to try to get the Roman hierarchy to permit religious freedom in places where that church is in power. I am a sincere believer in soul-freedom. If a person wishes to be Roman Catholic or join any other church or denomination, he should have the right to follow his conviction just as you had a right to leave the Baptists.

I have a very good friend living in Spain who is a member of our church here in Newport News. He has found religious worship in that land to be almost impossible

outside the Roman Church. Because of your background and training, you can understand why this condition makes many of us fear Roman Catholic power. It is because where the church has control over the political life of a nation, religious persecution has been the order of the day across history. If Rome should become the dominant church in this land and get control of the government, as evidently a number in the hierarchy would like to do, I do not believe our country would be the kind of a country that you and many of your Catholic friends would appreciate. It is not the people of the Catholic Church but the hierarchy that frightens most of us.

I sincerely love you and appreciate your friendship through the years. May the best in life come to you and your good wife. When

you are this way I hope that you will visit us.

Your friend in Christ,
Bruce H. Price
Newport News, Virginia
—000—

We did not become believers by struggling, but by trusting in what Christ had done for us; so we shall become fruitful by trusting the same Saviour to work in and through us.

—Hudson Taylor.

Instruction does not prevent waste of time or mistakes; and mistakes themselves are often the best teacher of all.



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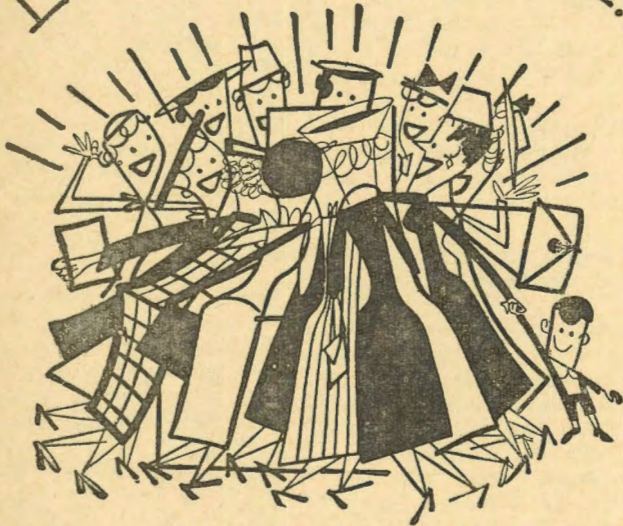
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Training Union Figures For 1954

During the past year the churches of Arkansas have increased from 1,115 to 1,133. Churches with Training Unions have increased from 865 to 926, or a net gain of 61. The Training Union enrolment has increased from 83,097 to 90,727, a net increase of 7,630 which is a 9.1% increase. In 1953, 77% of the churches in Arkansas had Training Unions. In 1954 this was increased to 81.7% of churches with Training Unions.

Association	No. Churches	No. Training Unions	Training Union Enrol.
Arkansas Valley	26	19	1,885
Ashley Co.	20	14	1,861
Bartholomew	26	18	1,933
Benton Co.	24	22	2,461
Big Creek	13	7	267
Black River	28	23	1,259
Boone	21	18	1,045
Buckner	35	19	1,193
Buckville	7	0	0
Caddo River	17	8	487
Carey	15	15	1,348
Caroline	25	23	1,928
Carroll	7	6	505
Centennial	10	9	1,340
Central	36	33	4,093
Clear Creek	28	23	2,037
Concord	37	32	5,682
Conway-Perry	15	12	634
Current River	19	16	925
Dardanelle-Russellville	24	19	1,295
Delta	35	32	2,855
Faulkner	25	21	1,286
Gainesville	17	13	907
Greene Co.	38	35	2,838
Harmony	33	29	3,643
Hope	41	34	3,787
Independence	18	14	905
Liberty	45	42	5,752
Little Red River	16	11	700
Little River	28	20	1,484
Mississippi	38	37	4,295
Motor Cities	20	17	1,411
Mount Zion	29	28	3,147
Newton Co.	5	3	106
Ouachita	19	14	994
Pulaski Co.	75	72	10,953
Red River	33	30	2,185
Rocky Bayou	15	11	590
Stone-Van Buren-Searcy	20	12	916
Tri-County	36	26	2,965
Trinity	30	25	1,839
Washington-Madison	25	22	2,071
White County	30	21	1,481
White River	16	10	564
Woodruff	13	11	875
TOTAL	1,133	926	90,727

Training Union Dept.
Ralph W. Davis, Secretary
Robert A. Dowdy, Associate

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SPRING TERM BEGINS JANUARY 24

Christ, the Son of the Living God

By BURTON A. MILEY

Sunday School Lesson

January 16, 1955

Matthew 16:13-17; John 14:8-14

The Bible assumes the existence of God. But what about Christ, the Son of God? Certain facts might prove helpful in understanding the question about Christ. Christ is the second member of the Godhead or Trinity. He is co-existent with God. Though He is God's only begotten Son, He is as old as God. This is not easy for human mind to grasp. Could you separate light from a giant electric bulb from the light of the sun at midday? It is light within light. Christ is God within God. In pre-incarnation state He was with God in creation (Colossians 1:16). The idea of Christ as the Son of the living God becomes much clearer and pronounced in the New Testament after His birth. This is because He hits the vein of human experience. Any child bears filial relationship to some parent.

The incarnation (Christ coming in the flesh) introduces not the beginning of the life, but the appearance of that life in time and space elements. Christ existed before Mary, but not in human body. Christ appeared in the body of flesh to accommodate human understanding. The Bible is careful to give the origin, manner, and growth of Christ in His incarnation. The thought would not be complete without the observation that Christ through resurrection power continues to exist back at the right hand of the Father. He does not have three lives. He has three manifestations of the same life. The spirit-manifestation in pre-incarnation, the flesh-manifestation in incarnation, and the resurrection-manifestation after His death on the cross. Wonder of wonders that Christ should so love man.

Who Do You Say?

Christ polled His disciples on public opinion concerning His identity. "Whom do men say that I am?" When this had been ascertained, He brought the question to a sharp personal challenge. "But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). The world has many answers concerning Christ. He is myth, teacher, martyr, prophet and impostor. But each person has responsibility to decide for himself. Christ leads one to focus judgment upon His identity. The decision cannot go by default, for that is the same as saying "Christ doesn't matter." Default is a mild denial, but nevertheless a denial. Peter voiced the decision of the group when he answered "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

May we note this Son of the living God is His humanity. Jesus was a man, the only perfect man ever to live in this world. Jesus was tempted in real human life in all points like any man. But unlike all other men He sinned not in the face of His tempta-

tions. He was able to overcome them. Every law had its power over the perfect Man who chose the limitations of the flesh. He grew from infancy to manhood according to physical laws. He needed food, clothing and shelter. He was subject to emotional stress, physical tiredness and strain. "He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). John 1:14 teaches "And the Word (Christ) was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." One must realize that Jesus was not a man with striking resemblance to God. Neither was He an extraordinary man who acted for God. He was God in the flesh.

What Christ Said of Himself

Probably no passage of scripture is known by so many people as the 14th chapter of John unless it is the 23rd Psalm. Jesus left witness concerning Himself in this remarkable chapter. "I am the way, the truth and the life." He is the way by which we go to God. He is the truth by which we learn the way. He is the life to which the way and truth leads. Christ is the living way of access to the Father. He is the bridge between man and God, earth and heaven. But at the same time Christ is the incarnation of entire God. He shows to men how God would be, and how God would act, if God were Himself a man. God in Christ became man-like that He might show man how to become godlike. He could say to Phillip "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." When one looks at Christ he does not see what God is like, but what God is.

There are two types of faith. "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me, or else believe me for the very works' sake." One can believe in Christ for the sake of the works. One can ask, "Is this Sonship with God genuine?" Are there any results to show its effectiveness? It is undeniable that Christ does save. Broken lives are mended by His touch. Sores in society are healed. Characters that have fallen into decay rise to strength and right through Christ. These are facts which stare one in the face. In themselves they can create a kind of faith.

Men have always called for a sign. Christ wants one to recognize His oneness with the Father as an overture from God to gener-

ously help man to an estate previously unknown and definitely not obtainable without God's help. This is the faith that accepts Christ for what He is and not for what He does. A little child might like to go to Grandma's house for the ever-present piece of candy or the special delicacies from her oven. But Grandmother would much prefer that the child would enjoy coming to visit her for the pleasure of her company. Belief through works' sake is better than no belief and can lead to beneficent results. Belief in the oneness of the Father and Son is of much higher quality and will keep one from following for the sake of the loaves and fishes.

Disciples share in a blessed, extravagant promise from Christ. "He that believeth on me the work that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do." There is no limit to prayer and faith. A whole soul and mind dedicated to God would produce greater works through combined strength with others equally dedicated. These greater works would be the same kind of works which Jesus did. There is a greater and wider spiritual effect through the ministry of saints today than there was when Jesus ministered in person. Sometimes one may be prone to measure works only in light of physical miracles. This will lead to dilemma and confusion. Each year Southern Baptists alone win more to the Lord than the Lord won to Himself while physically present upon the earth. Is it not right that they should do so? They are the Lord multiplied many times over in reach to do His works.

PRACTICAL LESSONS

It is Very Important That One Determine Who Christ Is. No one can live a dynamic life of service and usefulness without settling the spiritual worth of Christ to himself. When this decision is made early in life it becomes the bases for future decisions. "Is it the will of Christ?" should be foundation for every judgment.

Prayer Becomes Vital With a Living Christ. One can hold memories of the dead and meditate on their merit and actions. But response must exist for communion. Christ can give that response. He lives. God lives. "If ye ask anything in my name, that will I do." One identified with Christ has the same approach to God that Christ has. Christ became a sinner that we might become sons.

"It is not God who needs the gifts; it is we who need to do the giving."

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		S.S.	T.U.	A.M.
Sunday, January 2				
Fort Smith, First	1369	636	8	
Including missions	1537	722		
Little Rock, Immanuel	1321	399	1	
Including missions	1483	521	9	
No. Little Rock, Baring Cross	971	318	2	
Including mission	1076	333		
Little Rock, First	908	380	11	
El Dorado, First	894	266	4	
Little Rock, Second	843	265	7	
Including mission	933	331		
El Dorado, Immanuel	712	317	6	
Fort Smith, Grand Avenue	694	298	5	
Little Rock, Baptist Tabernacle	624	203	3	
Pine Bluff, South Side	604	209	2	
Texarkana, Beech Street	594	207	2	
Little Rock, Pulaski Heights	567	155	2	
Booneville, First	556	126		
Hope, First	549	186		
Camden, First	534	212	3	
Including missions	687	310		
Forrest City, First	511	169	2	
Warren, First	506	204		
Paragould, First	505	198		
Including missions	719	347		
Malvern, First	501	142	2	
Crossett, First	500	190	3	
Conway, First	488	117		
El Dorado, Second	478	203	2	
Springdale, First	462	219		
Cullendale, First	445	216	1	
Hot Springs, Park Place	441	176	3	
Fordyce, First	439	142	1	
Including mission	526	219	2	
Russellville, First	439	248		
Little Rock, South Highland	432	186	2	
Including mission	449			
Searcy, First	427	127	2	
Fort Smith, Calvary	419	173	1	
Monticello, First	411	235		
West Helena	411	166	3	
Bentonville, First	408	171		
Siloam Springs, First	403	219		
Hot Springs, Central	398	118	3	
Jacksonville, First	382	171	1	
Including mission	413			
Fort Smith, Trinity	364	145		
Jonesboro, Central	359	174	1	
El Dorado, West Side	354	126		
Mena, First	345	128	3	
Including mission	388	156		
No. Little Rock, Central	325	98		
Warren, Immanuel	320	185	4	
Fort Smith, South Side	317	109		
No. Little Rock, First	283	200	5	
No. Little Rock, Park Hill	283	110		
Nashville, First	281	129		
McGehee, First	265	301		
Star City, First	263	90	1	
Including mission	340			
Texarkana, Immanuel	259	126	1	
Fort Smith, Temple	258	147		
Ozark, First	257	93		
Springdale, Caudle Avenue	253	118	2	
Fort Smith, Spradling	253	87		
Paragould, East Side	252	132	4	
No. Little Rock, Pike Avenue	242	108	3	
Alma, First	235	107		
Little Rock, Tyler Street	235	97	2	
Hot Springs, Piney	225	167	1	
Payetteville, University	189	116		
Snaackover, Joyce City	174	119	1	
Rogers, Immanuel	106	50		

000

"When God has lifted us to a higher plane, when he has made us to make new resolves, we need to take the utmost care that we do not slip back into a dull routine of a halfhearted discipleship."

SECRET CONFESSION

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BOOK AND BIBLE HOUSE

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The Tragedy of the Second Best

This is a year of great emphasis on Evangelism. It is tragic indeed that we so seldom come back to the main thing and main emphasis that Christ called us to do. Teaching and training and enlistment are all important in their places, but first and foundational is the winning of souls to Christ. I fully realize what I am saying when I make this utterance. I am aware of the fact that the New Testament is made up in large measure by the Epistles and Letters written to individuals and to churches and to the Christians at large, but if you will study the whole tenor of the New Testament and the circumstances under which all of this work was done you will find that after all the main task and main emphasis of the early church and of the apostles in particular was to preach Jesus and Him crucified.

These Epistles were written when the writers were unable to get about and witness for Him on account of being in jail or being hindered in some other measure from going forth to witness publicly for Christ. Also in some instances those sins and misconceptions of doctrine arising in different churches led an apostle to write a letter of warning to those groups, but in the main the New Testament workers even went from house to house when they could not reach a congregation and preached Jesus to the people and baptized them. Yes, supreme emphasis should be laid upon winning souls to Christ, and during 1955 Southern Baptists are addressing themselves to this great privilege seriously.

Too Busy With Secondary Things

We often get so busy with secondary things that we sometimes forget the primary. There is so much to be done on the mechanical side of the work of our churches and of our denomination that we become too much absorbed in that side of the work, relatively speaking. There is grave danger, Brethren, of our becoming so absorbed in the business of money-raising and Institutional-building and keeping the organizations of the churches and of the denomination lubricated and going that we neglect to go forth, proclaiming Christ's Gospel to lost sinners. When we do this it becomes the tragedy of the second best.

We must expand our Institutional work. We must raise money and we must keep up our organizations, but we must also win the lost to Christ. Training and teaching and ministering to our own converts will soon dwindle out unless we win the lost to Christ. Teaching and training are not the end, but the means to an end—winning the lost. The late Dr. Lee Scarborough of Texas said that whether we build a hospital or whether we build a school or whatever else we do, the ultimate aim in view is winning the lost to Christ.

Now, this is the year in which we get hold of ourselves and ask the Lord to get hold of us, all for the fundamental purpose of winning lost souls to Christ.

One of the greatest things the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has done in re-

cent years was to create a Department of Evangelism, headed by Dr. I. L. Yearby. We have played around a great deal in our denominational work and we have spent much money and effort on the mechanics of church work and of the Kingdom of God and we have spent a lot of money on recreation and picnicing and in retreats and good times, but the greatest thing we have done was to set up a department in our denominational work which especially and conclusively addresses itself to winning lost souls to Christ. If we ever discontinue this Department of Evangelism it will be a tragedy of tragedies as the writer sees it, and we will be going backward and reversing the order of things that Jesus set going in His Kingdom work. If we ever have to discontinue any Department or consolidate or merge let it not be the Department of Evangelism. Let's emphasize that and build that up each passing year. Dr. Yearby has succeeded in organizing the associations for the Simultaneous Crusade during this year. There is increasing interest everywhere in this movement.

Easy Way Out?

We fully realize that the easiest way out is to plod along and let our church workers win the children to the church life and to Jesus. (And so often we are just taking them into the church without winning them to Christ,—without seeing genuine conversions.) For the most part our churches are too cold spiritually. We are reducing the work of the Lord to routine and mechanical processes. In many instances a revival in a church is a chore to the leaders in the church and sometimes to the pastor.

Sometime ago one pastor remarked that he was going to have a one week revival early in the year and "get that out of the way." In other words, a revival was to him a necessary evil. A revival ought to be a genuine joy. So much so that they should be repeated frequently. The New Testament Christians lived under the spell of a revival all along, and these revivals should be characterized with holy zeal and spiritual fire. John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

And the Master Himself said, "I come to send fire on the earth, and what do I desire? That it were already kindled." In the symbolism of Pentecost, cloven tongues, "Like as a fire,"—tongues turned loose with a burning spirit behind them, came upon each bowed and willing head. Our Lord had promised them power for witnessing after the Holy Spirit should come upon them. He would scatter forth in the midst of humanity a new divine influence that would flame and burn throughout the world. The fire that He sent was the Holy Spirit.

Contrary to this New Testament order of things and practice many churches are today water-logged with members who may have received the gift of life but live in a condition of permanent spiritual infancy and lethargy. Many of our churches are sluggish and cold. Too much so to realize the importance of getting into a great soul winning

campaign. The fire that our Lord sent forth into the world was to destroy that sluggishness and make vocal the numbers of multitudes of believers who articulate no word of praise to God nor appeal to those who are yet in the bondage of sin, but are loudly vocal in and for the world.

Power House or Cold Storage Plant?

Have we given ourselves to the Lord to let the fire which He spread upon the earth burn within us and through us? Or, are we turning our eyes upon the world with sympathy for its preoccupation in fleshly and worldly pleasures and pursuits, selfishly calculating on winning its Christ-ignoring favor by our very back-sliding and spiritual complacency?

Declaring that the utmost warmth is reasonable in our faith, Dr. McClarian writes in part: "A sober feeling is the emotion which corresponds to the truths that evoke it. Will any man tell me that any amount of earnestness, is in advance of the great truth that Christ loves me and has given Himself for me?" Someone said that "Christianity was born in a blood red earnestness and a burning enthusiasm. The speed of its onward march is always paced by the heat of its burning heart."

Christianity now has knowledge and the graces, but do not let it lose its tongue of fire. The cold wisdom that emits a frosty light and not Holy flame will turn any church from a power-house into a cold storage plant.

There is a vast difference between the meaning of "Evangelical" on the one hand and "Evangelism" on the other hand. Evangelical may mean truth on ice but evangelism means truth on fire.

There is so much that clamors for utterance as I write these few lines that I find it difficult to find a stopping place, but the sum total of this appeal is that all our churches and all our preachers and all our people join in this crusade for souls, this simultaneous effort that is being proposed and promoted and urged and prayed for by our leaders.

Beirne and Harold Wilson

Harold Wilson is a student at Ouachita College and he is the pastor of the Beirne Church. Any school boy that has a church like the one at Beirne has his hands full. He has a hard task at both places, but Harold Wilson is capable and is equal to the occasion. He has been pastor at Beirne five months and the church is seeing things happen. It is a new day for the church. The attendance has almost doubled and the finances have picked up materially. They will soon be ready to adopt the 1955 budget and we venture that they will do much more for the Cooperative Program than they have ever done.

Greed: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase." Eccle. 5:10. The more he gets, the more he wants.