

# Arkansas Methodist

Serving One Hundred and

and Methodists in Arkansas

"The World is My Parish" — J.P.

Go ye into all the world — Mark 16:15

VOL. LXIX.

LITTLE

ARKANSAS JUNE 8, 1950

NO. 23

## Today's Biggest News

IF you were told that one of the biggest news stories today is the resurgence of religion, you would likely suspect that such a statement was coming from a clerical source that was overemphasizing the place of religion in the life of the world. The statement takes on significance when it is disclosed that these are the words of a layman. The statement has even greater significance when one learns that they are words from a professional newspaper man addressing a group of young people attending the Georgia Collegiate Press Association meeting recently.

According to Religious News Service, Robert W. Brown, editor of The Columbus Ledger, (Georgia), told these young people that "the most important by-product of nuclear fission has been a world resurgence of religion . . . to be good journalists they (young people) must be good citizens, and being a good citizen (they) must embrace religion . . . This resurgence of religion is one of the greatest news stories in history—but one which, unfortunately, the professional journalists are not equipped to record. It is too big for us to handle, a news story of such awesome proportions and infinite importance that we just can't put it down on a piece of copy paper." The editor noted the increasing popularity of columns and features of a spiritual tone in daily newspapers and told the students they should take part in this emphasis when they go out into professional journalism.

If this Georgia editor has correctly analyzed the "big news" of today, and we believe that he has, this means that the opportunity which confronts the churches today is one unsurpassed for many generations past. The tension of the times, the dread uncertainty of what the future holds in store, the swing of the pendulum away from dependence upon materialism, the division of much of the world into two groups with the ensuing cold war, these and many other factors, we believe, have led to the resurgence of religion of which the Georgia editor has spoken. The Christian gospel with its message of redemption for the individual and society can well be the very force which will be the means of deliverance. The Christian does not think it strange that the "Good News" of the New Testament is today's biggest news.

## What Are We To Believe?

PRESS reports a few days ago attributed to President Truman the statement that the United States and the world in general are nearer the realization of real peace than at any time since the ceasing of hostilities in 1946. This statement should be the means of a measure of security for the average person except for the fact that the same day President Truman sent a message to Congress requesting an additional 1½ billion dollars for military expenditures. This is a bit confusing when it is remembered that military preparedness expenditures are now at an all time high and appropriations are still not enough.

We are not here questioning for one minute the correctness of the President's statement about future peace possibilities nor the necessity for additional funds for military purposes. It may be that the reason why we are nearer peace today is because we have been spending such vast amounts for military preparedness. We trust that the President is correct in his peace predictions and that the time is not too distant when military expenditures may be lessened, for history has shown that never has permanent peace been bought through military preparedness.

## Conference Preacher At Little Rock Conference

IT is the great privilege of members and visitors attending the Little Rock Conference this week in Hot Springs to hear, as conference preacher, Dr. William Bryan Selah. Dr. Selah is pastor of Galloway Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Selah is a native of Missouri. He was born at Sedalia, February 17, 1897. He attended Central College in Missouri and received an A. B. degree from that institution in 1921. Central College also conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1932. He was a student at Yale Divinity School in 1923-24.

The earlier work of his ministry was done in his native state of Missouri where



he held the following pastorates: Clinton, 1923-27; Fayette, 1927-32; Kansas City, 1932-37.

In 1937 he was appointed to the First Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, the first appointment outside of Missouri. Since that time he has been serving some of the great Methodist Churches in the south, including St. Luke's in Oklahoma City and the historic Galloway Memorial Methodist Church of which he is now pastor.

Dr. Selah is not a stranger in Arkansas. Many of our ministers and laymembers have heard him preach and recognize in him one of the great Methodist preachers of our day. His ministry will be a high point, spiritually, in the work of the Little Rock Conference.

Bishop Martin and the Boards of Evangelism of our two Annual Conferences in Arkansas are rendering the membership and ministry of our church an inestimable service in bringing to our Annual Conference sessions, as conference preachers, some of the outstanding ministers of Methodism.

Besides delivering the Commemoration Service sermon Wednesday morning and the sermon at the Wednesday evening worship service, Dr. Selah will preach Thursday and Friday afternoons at 4:00 o'clock and Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

## Methodists Believe God's Kingdom Is Universal

DURING the month of June the subject to be emphasized in The Preaching and Teaching Endeavor is "Our Faith in the Kingdom of God." In this article we are saying that Methodists believe God's Kingdom is universal.

While the larger concept of the Kingdom of God embodies more than the Christian church on earth, nevertheless, for the people of earth, the Christian church is the Kingdom of God at work in the world. When we say that Methodists believe God's Kingdom is universal we, in substance, are saying that Methodists believe the Christian church is universal. In that faith Methodism is in accord with the Apostles Creed, the earliest creed Christianity has, which declares, "I believe . . . in the holy catholic Church." In that faith it is also in accord with the teachings of Jesus in the "every creature" and "all the world" features of the Great Commission.

The most revolutionary religious idea that ever came to mankind was this sense of mission that came to the early Christian church when it came to believe that Christianity held a vital message for the whole world. Formerly religions, as well as gods, were national, racial or tribal and were so content to be so that there was utterly lacking any urge to evangelize others.

Methodists around the world, each Sabbath day, declare "I believe . . . in the holy catholic Church." To say that we believe the Christian church, or the Kingdom of God is catholic or universal is a natural, normal, inescapable position for any evangelical church that believes in the Great Commission.

Our church is criticized by some Protestant denominations for using the statement in the Apostles Creed, "I believe . . . in the holy catholic Church." In that criticism, through ignorance or willful intent, they profess to believe that Methodists are declaring their faith in the Roman Catholic Church. The fact of the business is that every evangelical church, even those that criticize the Methodists at this point, believes in the holy catholic Church. Any denomination that does not believe that the Christian church is holy could hardly be classified as a church; any church that does not believe that the Christian church is universal would not be evangelical.

## North Arkansas Conference Meets In North Little Rock

ON Wednesday, June 14th, the North Arkansas Conference will open its annual session in North Little Rock, at 10:00 a. m., Bishop Paul E. Martin, presiding. While all of the Methodist Churches of North Little Rock will cooperate in entertaining the conference, the conference sessions will be held at Gardner Memorial Methodist Church, Rev. Vernon E. Chalfant, pastor.

This is the first time North Little Rock has entertained an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. The women of our church have held two of their annual meetings in North Little Rock but, until this year, the Annual Conference of the church has met in other cities of the conference.

Dr. Kenneth W. Copeland, pastor of Travis Park, San Antonio, Texas, will be the Conference preacher this year. These preaching services will be open to the public generally.

(Continued on page 4)



# Prophet And Priest



By MOUZON MANN, Pastor, Oak Forest Church, Little Rock

THE function of a minister is twofold: priestly, and prophetic. The average person is more acquainted with the prophetic or preaching function. It is through this that the congregation is told the story of Jesus, the Gospel, the Good News. They are guided in the way they should go; they are reminded of the dangers of the sinful life; occasionally, they may hear what to them is verbal chastisement for the way they have been living. The prophet is concerned with truth; he speaks for someone. If he is a true prophet, he speaks for God. He is God's messenger, and he would not enter the ministry unless he believed that God wanted him, was calling him, particularly, to be a minister and preacher. One would not dare to speak for God without having first received the commission of the Holy Spirit, and, after that, the blessing, ordination, and authority of God's Holy Church.

The priestly function of the minister is the one that has been least recognized and utilized. The minister, as priest, is a mediator. To a home that is bereaved, he mediates the comfort of God. Anyone can serve such a function, and it is true, too, that God's comfort can be upon the bereaved without the minister being present. The Holy Spirit is the witness of the Father to those in such need.

But there are times when individuals need a person to remind them and assure them of the mercy and love of God. And God in this person ministers to those who need and want help. It is not the minister as priest himself that accomplishes the deed. It is Christ in the minister, or in any layman, as far as that goes, who is surrendered to Christ. A person was about to be operated on; she was nervous and anxious. She knew of God's goodness and mercy as a fact. But the fact was not having its effect in her feelings. Her feelings were not a reflection of what she believed. The minister was called to perform a priestly function: by his attitude and faith and prayers, mediate to the sick one the ministry of the Holy Spirit, of the Father. This was accomplished, and fear and tension were banished.

A man comes by the parsonage. He is about to take a new job. He wants the minister to remember him in this matter. He wants someone, not preaching to him then, but praying to the Father for His blessing and guidance. He wants a third person, one besides God and himself in the



REV. MOUZON MANN

situation. The minister interceded with God in his behalf, and in so doing was being a priest.

But, as a rule—and this is the sad part—people do not call on the minister for the priestly function. When they just need someone to talk to, to listen while they unburden the secrets of their hearts, they neglect to call him and go on, bearing their burden alone. When a couple becomes mixed up in their relations with each other and need someone who can think objectively for them, they do not call him; they go on in that mental and emotional wallow, and do one of two things or maybe both—wear each other out, or wear the situation out.

Consequently, the minister is only one thing, a preacher who stands in the pulpit and shakes hands with people when they leave the Church and who tries to lead a Church. They do not know him as a friend in their dark hours, as a listening post, a confessor, if you please, when they need understanding.

Unless, unless, the minister has been very alert to some symptoms and on his own initiative visits, leads his members to talk about his trouble, and then provides a ministry to him. To have to rely on this alone, however, is to miss scores of situations in which God's mercy is needed.

Why does the congregation not utilize the priestly function of the minister? Many have not thought of the pastor in such terms, as already indicated. Pastors have changed churches so much, too, that people have not had time to get acquainted with a minister, much less get to the place of confiding their innermost secrets. Finally, there may be a little natural reluctance to see a person as a friend, as one who loves them, who may have said some rather hard things the previous Sunday in the sermon concerning the way we live. There may be an unconscious fear in a person's mind that if he unbares to the minister what is in his heart, the minister, as preacher next Sunday, may get up and be denunciatory.

No conscientious pastor (we are using the term "minister" and "pastor" interchangeably), would abuse in the slightest the priestly function. (The preacher doing that would be nothing less than a "heel.") And the people eventually discover and realize that what they say to him ends there; they are never quoted, nor does he quote other people to them.

The conclusion: to the end that the soul may be strengthened, lives may be straightened out, the Father be present in another way and to an additional degree, remember and use the priestly function of your minister. Burdens may be lightened, the way out of a dilemma may be discovered, and a life may be saved from the enervation of anxiety and fear to joyful usefulness in God's vineyard.

## Summary Of Work In Narcotics In Education In Arkansas

By MAE WILHELM

THIS Narcotics Program has the endorsement of the State Department of Education and is financed by the Women's Societies of the Baptist, Methodist, Seventh Day Adventists, Christian, Nazarene and Presbyterian Churches of the State. The Arkansas W. C. T. U. raises its part by love gifts. The work is directed by the Narcotics Education Committee of Arkansas, made up of a representative from each of the supporting organizations.

The cooperative movement, which began in September, 1947, is a practical adventure in working together for the benefit of the youth of Arkansas.

Schools Contacted: A total of counties visited, thirty-eight; the number of schools and colleges contacted, 214. The schools visited included work in the Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Schools. (White and Colored)

Outlined program to teachers, distributing Units of Instruction (This includes entire list of schools, 22-County Teachers Meetings, some groups at various colleges). Number contacted, 3,974.

Film introduced and shown to Junior and Senior High School students (Grades 7-12), and some college groups. Number contacted,

20,872.

Demonstration teaching in the Elementary School (Grades 1-6). Number of pupils contacted, 30,831.

Outlined program to other groups—Number contacted, approximately 6,390. (These groups include Women's Societies of the various churches, Sunday School Classes, Young People's Groups, Lions Club, G. I. Classes, etc.)

Conferences with teachers for follow-up work—Number of conferences held with teachers, 158.

Books purchased by various schools to be used in follow-up instruction. Number of books purchased, 650.

AIM OF NARCOTICS EDUCATION PROGRAM: To give to the youth of Arkansas the scientific facts and truths as they relate to Narcotics.

In presenting this work, demonstration teaching was done in the Elementary School (Grades 1-6), using visual aids. Approximately 30-minutes was spent in each classroom.

In the Junior and Senior High School (Grades 7-12), the 16mm sound film, "IT'S THE BRAIN THAT COUNTS," was introduced and shown with a "question and discussion period" following.

Before leaving each school, con-

ferences with the teachers were held leaving with them outlined units of instruction for definite follow-up procedure after the initial introduction to the work was given.

### Personal Interest Stories In Narcotic Education

A Junior High School teacher writes:

Teaching this Unit on Alcohol has been the most inspiring experience I have had as a teacher.

One day when we were discussing how little we remember of the things we learn, I remarked, "I wonder how many of you will remember anything I have taught you thirty years from now."

After a pause one student said, "I'll remember what you have taught me in this unit on alcohol. That is my hope."

After the work had been presented to a third grade, one of the boys said to the principal, "I am not going to drink any more of that beer daddy brings home each night, for that lady told us yesterday what was in the beer that is not good for my brain and body."

A fifth grade boy said, "I am taking care of my brain and body for I am going to be a preacher when I grow up, so I have to start getting ready now."

In talking to a sixth grade class this statement was made, "The person who is drunk is out of the picture, it is the person who is drinking that gets into trouble."

In the quiet of that moment a boy sitting on the back seat, who through observation and experience knew the truth of that statement, jumped to his feet, pounding his fist on the desk with all his might, said, "That's the truth."

There was a hushed silence in the room. The statement from this boy seemed to make a deep lasting impression on his classmates.

A lovely high school girl saw me in the hall after the work had been presented and asked this question: "If a young man started drinking while in the service but has quit, has he been harmed? Is he all right? I want to know for I am going with that young man, now."

One Junior High School student said, "My mother gave me some whiskey and I didn't like the taste of it. I don't even want to drink. I don't see how anyone could like it."

When the youth of Arkansas learn the scientific facts and truths about one of the major Narcotics, Alcohol, this is the question they ask:

"If this Narcotic is so harmful to the brain and the body, why does the government allow it to be sold?"

# THE DEVOTIONAL PAGE

REV. ROY I. BAGLEY, Editor

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Repentance, the transition from the mind of the flesh to the mind of Christ is cumulative, and lifelong, and should be constantly progressing...

A change of disposition is required before men can believe...

A sense of guilt alone does not necessarily produce repentance...

Their sense of guilt must be supplemented by faith to produce repentance...

... The human will have a part in this change...

The final goal of transformed thinking is the ability to recognize the will of God in difficult times and situations...

A pagan bent to one's thoughts give a pagan tilt to one's life...

Too many Christians are satisfied with being polite to Jesus...

from THE MEANING OF REPENTANCE by William Douglas Chamberlain

## THE FOLLOW-UP OF DREAMS

Who doesn't dream? We have read of prophets receiving revelations from God in dreams.

If either of you were a prophet of the Lord, in visions would I make myself known to him, in dreams would I speak through him. Numbers 12:6

Yes, we dream, and often hear the voice of God without realizing it. When a man will discipline himself to a life of prayer and listening for the voice of God, he may hear and recognize that voice. Then will his life be guided by the Holy Spirit and his actions seen by the world as those of a man of God.

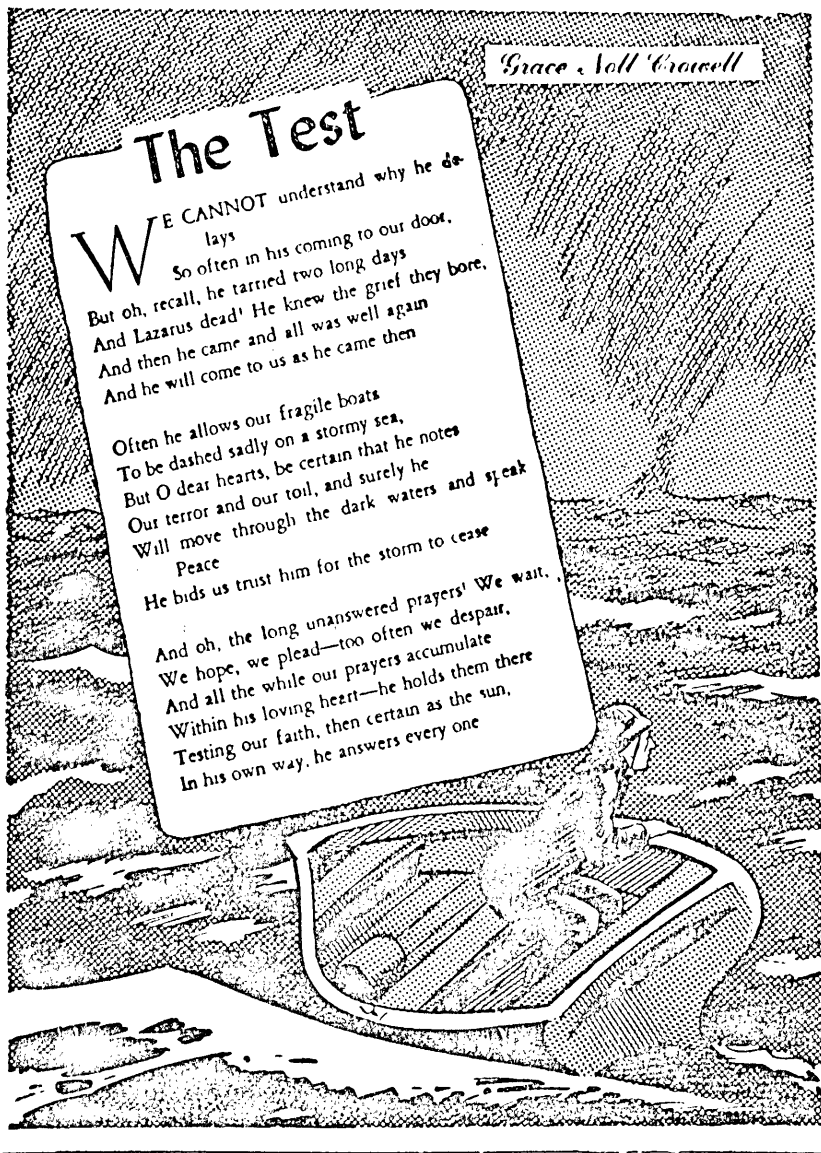
Joel quotes God, saying,

It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Joel 2:28

However, something must follow the dreams: action. When a hungry man dreams he eats in the dream; but he wakes and is still hungry. In his dreams, a thirsty man has plenty to drink, but awakes to find himself thirsty. (See Isaiah 29:7, 8) Seeing needs and ways to meet them is of little value unless action follows. Things accomplished in dreams must later be made into reality.

Lord, grant that thy spirit may so fill me that I may not only hear thy voice in my dreams, but may act consequently to have thy will expressed through my life. Amen.—In Power

The mechanical engineer tells us that it takes 6 times as much power to start a flywheel from a dead stop as it does to keep it going, once in motion. In other words, it takes only 1/6 as much effort to keep going once you are on the way as it does to stop a bit, and then start again. When tempted to slacken just because things are coming your way, remember the flywheel.—After Hrs.



## PRISONERS OF HOPE

"Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope; This very day do I announce that I will restore double to you." (Zechariah 9:12)

This admonition comes at a time when the Holy City of the Jews is in waste, its people scattered to distant countries, its national life destroyed, its religious life infected with paganism, and a curtain of pessimism settling over them. In this gloomy situation the prophet comes voicing the message of hope and assurance. He does not stand alone but is the spokesman for a group who feel that there is an answer to their problems. They feel that their nation shall triumph over the heathen forces. They failed in political triumph but gave a greater heritage, a religious faith that shines brightest when the night is darkest.

Stout-hearted men and women the world over are prisoners of hope. I say stout-hearted men and women, for it is only those with courage to face changes of such magnitude that they really come to have hope. We have thought of hope as wishful thinking. Hope is founded upon a more solid foundation than that. St. Paul gives us a stairway to climb to the sublime height of Christian hope when he says, "More than that, we ought to glory in our troubles, for we know that trouble produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope, and hope will not disappoint us." (Rom. 5:3-4 American). This is not an easy road and Christian hope is not arrived at superficially.

Not too long ago hope was the easiest thing for all of us. We had developed a philosophy of inevitable progress. Our theology was built on a kindly Deity who no matter what we did or what our attitude was, everything would come out all right. A psychology was built in which if we would continue to say long enough, "In every way and every day I am getting better and better," that soon we would reach a perfect state. Our awakening was rude but necessary. Now we know that real hope is woven out of the materials that life offers us day by day.

The situation that the Prophet faced was not hopeful; yet, he wove into his message the light of hope. We may fail to see all the implications of what he was driving at but we can understand and learn from his undying hope that burned like a flame upon the altar of his soul. We are too prone to be hopeful only when things look the brightest. Our national and international situation is anything but pleasing today. Can we as Christians bring a message of hope and stability into our world that will help light the pathway out of our confusion? There is no doubt about it if we do not fool ourselves into thinking that hope comes in an easy way.

One of the most pessimistic attitudes that can be taken is that everything will be lost in case of

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the blessings of life. Thou hast attended our way even when we were rebellious toward Thee. With Thine infinite love Thou didst woo our hearts and call us from sin to salvation. Help us when we are prone to lose heart. Give us a hope that climbs above the darkness of this day to see that which Thou wouldst have for us. Encourage our hearts to live righteously even in the face of opposition. Save us from littleness of spirit. Increase our vision and give us strength to move toward the realization of that vision. Make our convictions deep that our lives may be a blessing to our communities. Make the Church strong through devotion to Thee. Grant us the leadership of the living presence of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

another war. Men will come to say, "What's the use of living right, everything is going overboard anyway." War always has its devastating effect and we pray God that there shall never be another. We will bend our every effort to averting another disaster, but to say that everything will be lost hardly voices Christian hope. Christian hope is built on the unshakable faith that righteousness will win the battle. We may fail, our civilization may go to pieces but the righteousness of the life of just one man registers in the consciousness of the world and each Christian can resolve that his righteousness will be such that it will make its impression on the world. If we drift with the destructive forces by our own attitude of pessimism Christian hope is a tantalizing goal that we never reach.

Christian hope is not an ideal state to escape the harsh realities of life. It is an attitude of mind and a toughness of spirit that in the face of harsh realities can find the light to guide even though it be one step at a time. We always do something with life when it offers its most poignant sorrows. We surrender and fill it with despair, or we create a superficial optimism, or we will follow the route mapped by stout-hearted souls to the height of Christian hope.

We have been looking altogether too much on our day from the human level. We need to raise our eyes and stretch the wings of faith to God. The Prophet knew the source of the hope that made them prisoners. St. Paul does not climb his stairway to find that his answer is just one that can be given by a human being. He makes his declaration... "a hope that never disappoints us. For through the Holy Spirit that has given us, God's love has flooded our hearts." (Rom. 5:5) Then Christian hope is built on the greatest power in the world, the love of God that floods our hearts. We are prisoners of hope when God's love floods our soul.—R. B.

I should like to restore conversation as a means of development in teaching. Conversation has become somewhat of a lost art. I honestly believe the wisecrack has killed American conversation. — Ralph Bates, Phoenix Flame, hm, Phoenix Metal Cap Co.



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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY  
Except the Weeks of July 4 and December 25

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.50 PER ANNUM  
Retired Ministers and Wives of Deceased Ministers  
of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference  
Complimentary

Office of Publication, 1136-1137 Donaghey Building  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

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OWNED, MANAGED AND PUBLISHED BY THE  
METHODIST CHURCH OF ARKANSAS

COMMISSIONERS  
Little Rock Conference—J. S. M. Cannon, J. L. Hoover,  
O. C. Landers, Fred W. Schwendemann, Arthur Terry,  
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North Arkansas Conference—John Bayliss, W. Glenn  
Bruner, J. G. Moore, Joe Pierce, C. M. Reeves, R. J.  
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Entered as second-class matter, January 31, 1908,  
at the Post Office at Little Rock, Ark., under the Act  
of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing  
at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103,  
Act of October 3, 1917, authorized September 12, 1918.

When asking for change of address, please include  
charge key number, former address, new address and  
name of pastor.

Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect  
the opinions of the editors of the Arkansas Methodist.

## Here And There In Arkansas Methodism

By The Editors

**L**AST week some 125 young people from over North Arkansas Conference met on the Hendrix College campus for the Annual Young People's Assembly. The privilege of attending such assemblies is the high point of many young people's experiences. This assembly marks the beginning of a full summer program of young people and intermediate assemblies and camps in Arkansas Methodism under the direction of the Boards of Education of the two Arkansas annual conferences. Many of these camps are now held on a District basis, making it possible for larger numbers to attend.

It is annual conference time in Arkansas Methodism with the Little Rock Conference meeting this week in Hot Springs and the North Arkansas Conference meeting next week in North Little Rock. Among the special points of interest to be shared by the two conferences are addresses by Bishop and Mrs. Martin as they speak to the conferences on "The Place of Methodism in The New India." These addresses will be made in connection with the conferences' emphasis on the Advance for Christ and His Church.

Ministerial and lay members of the North Arkansas Conference who pass through Judsonia en route to their Annual Conference in North Little Rock will be interested in seeing the Methodist church building expansion program in Judsonia. The church building has been enlarged to provide additional educational facilities, and the entire plant has been rock veneered.

The house which has served for many years as the district parsonage for the Paragould District was sold several weeks ago and another Paragould residence at 711 West Emerson was purchased for the use of the District Superintendent and his family. Improvements have been made on the newly acquired property, which make it a most comfortable and delightful home. Rev. A. N. Storey is the District Superintendent.

A new district parsonage is being completed for the Monticello District at Monticello and will be ready for occupancy at an early date. The *Arkansas Methodist* will publish an article about this new parsonage in a future issue.

Those pastoral charges in the North Arkansas Conference which may be in rapture, anticipating a change in pastoral leadership at next week's session of the annual conference, will do well to remember that last year's conference

## NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

**M**R. H. H. GRIFFIN, wife of the late Rev. H. H. Griffin, has recovered from a recent illness at her home in Paragould. Her address is West Main Street, Paragould.

**R**EV. JOHN B. HEFLEY, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Arkadelphia, preached the commencement sermon for the Arkadelphia High School graduates Sunday, May 28. Brother Hefley reports that the church recently raised \$225.00 for the Arkadelphia District Cabin Fund.

**M**ISS HETTIE LUE WILSON of Hot Springs has accepted the position as youth director for the summer at the First Methodist Church, Paragould, Rev. R. E. Connell, pastor. Miss Wilson is a student at Hendrix College and has had extensive experience and training as a youth director.

**R**EV. FLOYD G. VILLINES, JR., writes: "The congregation of the East Van Buren Methodist Church in church conference on May 28 voted to change the name of the church to St. John's Methodist Church. The congregation made this change because the former name denotes a location that is no longer true, and it desired a name more in line with our Christian tradition."

**A**CCORDING to Dr. Eric M. North, general secretary of the American Bible Society, that Society, working with the Japan Bible Society, has distributed about 4,000,000 scriptures during the past four years in the Japanese tongue. They now plan to distribute 3,000,000 more Bibles, New Testaments and scripture portions in 1950, and 5,000,000 more in 1951. Reports from Japan indicate that "everyone" is reading the Bible, "even in the remote fishing villages."

**B**ISHOP H. CLIFFORD NORTHCOTT of the Wisconsin Area of The Methodist Church and Mrs. Northcott will make a four-month visitation of the Methodist missions in Africa and Europe. He has been commissioned by the Council of Bishops to make the tour. The Northcotts will fly from LaGuardia field, New York, and the Pan American Airways, June 22, and will land in Africa the following day. They will return in November.

**S**OUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Jacksonville, Texas, students are sponsors of the Carver Fine Arts School for colored children. Twice each week SU students and professors teach piano, music theory, drawing and painting to 38 Negro children. The Student Christian Association, in cooperation with the Methodist Student Fellowship, is responsible for the school, which is held in the First Methodist Church. As a result of the excellent standard the Carver school has attained, a college scholarship has been granted one of its students.

**R**EV. WESLEY J. CLARK, who formerly served in the Little Rock Conference, writes: "I am in my fifth year at the Boyd Street Methodist Church of DeSoto, Missouri. We have two Methodist Churches here in a town of 5500 people. The two churches voted on merging last Sunday, May 28. Fourth Street Church voted to merge. My church voted not to merge. There were ten votes more not to merge than to merge. A new vote will be taken on the first Sunday in October, just before Conference. My church was formerly the north church and the other the south."

**W**RITING from Chungking, wartime capital of China, the Rev. Olin F. Stockwell, mission-

passed a resolution making it mandatory for each pastoral charge to pay the moving expenses of its new pastor, effective with the 1950 session of the Annual Conference. Some churches have followed this practice of paying the moving expenses of the incoming pastors for a number of years. Authority for this practice is found in paragraph 804, The Methodist Discipline. Interestingly enough, the North Arkansas Conference resolution was introduced by a group of laymen and was amended to include not only pastors but all ministers, regardless of appointment.

ary from Perry, Oklahoma, says: "We are living in difficult times. The American government has tried to retain the friendship of the Chinese government and has blundered and failed. American business has been thrown out of China. The one remaining link that is based upon an unselfish, honest desire to help the people of China is the Christian church. Our success or failure does not depend upon political events, for we are not dependent upon the government. Our success or failure depends upon you and upon me, upon whether we are willing to continue to give and pray that all of us of every color and nationality may be knit together in one world brotherhood that supersedes political and economic differences. Our faith is that 'in Christ' we are one. Certainly this is not the time to deny that faith."

### MINISTERS' WIVES FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Mrs. E. G. Kaetzell, president of the Ministers' Wives Fellowship of the North Arkansas Conference writes: "We urge all those who plan to attend the luncheon on Saturday, June 17th, at Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, to send their reservations (\$1.25) to Mrs. Maurice Lanier, Mountain View, Arkansas, by June 10th. We know that all of you will want to hear Mrs. Martin, who is to be our guest speaker and we are very anxious to know how many are planning to attend."

### ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a dinner meeting of the Board of Evangelism of the North Arkansas Conference at the Marion Hotel, Little Rock, Tuesday evening, June 13th. All members of the Board are to be present and the following are to be their guests: Bishop and Mrs. Martin, the District Superintendents, District Directors of Evangelism. Those planning to attend should notify the chairman. Guests may be brought by those attending at \$2.00 per plate.

Alvin C. Murray,  
Chairman, The Board of Evangelism  
The North Arkansas Conference

### TRANSPORTATION AT CONFERENCE

In pursuant of the regular policy of the host churches at annual conference, the churches of North Little Rock will provide transportation, if needed, from the church to the home where the member of conference is staying. If you are driving, maps of the city will be furnished by the Chamber of Commerce, and Boy Scouts will be available to guide you to your place of residence.

The Transportation Committee will meet no buses or trains, and will assume no responsibility beyond getting you to your place of residence.

If you come by train, you will need to catch the bus which goes by the depot, making sure it is headed toward the city, and get off at Markham and Main, where you will transfer to either the Levy or the Nannette and V. A. Hospital bus, which will take you to 18th and Pike, which is one block west of the church.

The Union Bus Terminal is at Markham and Main, and the MOP bus depot is one block west of Markham and Main, so one can easily walk to the corner of Markham and Main and take the buses described above. The Greyhound bus depot is on 6th and Broadway, and one must go four blocks east to Main, and two blocks down to Fourth and Main, where one can catch the Levy bus to the Gardner Memorial Methodist Church.

Taxi service is available between the two cities.—The Transportation Committee, William M. Wilder, Chairman.

### NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE MEETS IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK

(Continued from page 1)

The Conference will have opportunity to look over the new church building at Gardner Memorial which gives evidence of some careful planning and sacrificial giving on the part of the Gardner congregation.

# CURRENT NEWS IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

Selected from Religious News Service Releases

## Clergy Ask World Disarmament Conference

A committee of St. Paul, Minn., Protestant clergymen has urged President Truman and other government officials to call a world-wide conference to seek "universal world disarmament on land, sea and air." A statement unanimously adopted by the social study and action committee of the Ministers' Association, St. Paul Council of Churches, said, in part: "It is evident that we have come to the place where we must ask ourselves this question: Shall we be forced like dumb driven cattle to accept death caused by our own inventions and wilful refusal to explore new avenues of finding peace, or shall we seek to establish the spirit of the Christian faith which teaches the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man in finding new ways of living peacefully with the other peoples of the world? We call upon the members of our churches to write to our President to explore such new possibilities for peace which will avoid the present threat upon mankind." In another statement, the committee opposed the appointment of a successor to Myron Taylor, resigned Presidential envoy to the Vatican, saying that such an appointment "would further endanger Protestant-Roman Catholic relationships in America."

## Says Protestantism Neglect 'Lower Class'

Protestantism "hardly touches the lower class" in America, the Rev. Theodore M. Mikolon, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church, Rochester, told the Buffalo district pastoral conference, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. Mikolon said that Protestant churches generally "are supported largely by the upper and middle classes—by people who believe that God is a capitalist." Surveys show that only 11 per cent of lower class people of Protestant background are reached by Protestant churches," Mr. Mikolon said. "In Protestant America it has been a prestige factor to belong to a church and consequently we find almost 100 per cent of the upper class holding church membership." He declared that religion often "produces self-righteousness and snobbery" and that churches and denominations "use techniques to select prestige people and hold them . . . by catering to them and giving them positions of prestige."

## Methodists Report Church School Gains

A gain of 21 per cent in church school membership for the past five years was reported at Cincinnati, O., at the annual meeting of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church. Also reported was an increase of 23 per cent in average attendance at Sunday school for the same period. Statistics on circulation of church school literature indicated that 70 per cent of the officers and teachers in Methodist church schools are now using materials provided for them. Circulation of materials for children is about 80 per cent of enrollment, while the total circulation of church school literature was reported as just over 6,000,000. Enrollment figures showed that 218,677 students were attending the 122 colleges and

universities related to the Methodist Church during the 1948-49 school year. Institutes, camps and assemblies held last summer reported an estimated attendance of 100,000. Receipts from the Methodist Youth Fund, it was also reported, have grown from \$82,683 in 1941-42 to \$338,599 in 1948-49. More than 795,000 children were enrolled in over 14,000 vacation church schools in 1948, the General Board was told.

## Southern Baptists To Continue Missions In China

A foreign mission board official told the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago that Baptist missions in China "will be continued under the Communists." Dr. James B. Couthen, board secretary for the Orient, added that if missionaries should ultimately be forced to leave the country, Chinese Baptists would take over and continue the work. According to Dr. Couthen, the Communist conquest of China has thus far not damaged the effectiveness of missionary efforts there.

## Oxnam Urges Conference Of Protestant, Catholic Leaders

Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of New York called at Boston for an "early" conference between Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders in this country for the purpose of inaugurating such cooperation as "would electrify the world." In an address to the annual session of the Northern Baptist Convention, Bishop Oxnam added this proviso, however: "Antecedent to such conference, Protestants believe the Pope should enunciate a new doctrine of religious liberty. Let him, as the head of the great body of Christians, declare that the Roman Catholic Church recognizes and will cooperate in protecting the right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience or in his own way, the right of parents to rear their children in their faith, the right of the individual to change his faith, the right of churches to educate, preach, carry on missionary work, and to own property for these purposes. 'In a word,' Bishop Oxnam said, 'let the Holy Father declare that in all matters involving religious liberty, the Roman Catholic Church will do unto others as it would have others do unto the Roman Catholic Church.'"

## East German Prime Minister Hits Church Teachings

About 10,000 German children who took part in the Russian Zone youth rally in Berlin were warned against the teachings of the Christian Church by Premier Wilhelm Pieck of East Germany. "High Church officials have recently started a strong campaign against dialectical materialism, which is the scientific basis of our educational system," the Premier told the youngsters, who ranged in age from nine to 14 years. All the children wore blue shorts or skirts and white shirts. Premier Pieck said the Church preferred to teach "faith" instead of providing an education based on an analytical study of facts. "As we all know," he said, "faith begins when knowledge ends. One could even suspect that the Church has joined the anti-democratic, imperialistic and war-mongering forces of the world that are out

to lead us into a new war."

## Novel Groundbreaking Ceremony Held

Something new in the way of groundbreaking ceremonies took place at Los Angeles when 348 members of the Westwood Community Methodist church, armed with as many shovels, dug the earth for a new \$537,000 sanctuary. The participants lined up along a chalk outline of the proposed structure. When the Rev. Ray W. Ragsdale, pastor, gave the signal everyone dug into the dirt. Bishop James C. Baker told those present that church groundbreakings today are outstanding because they constitute "a great venture in faith in an uncertain world." "We are saying that we do not believe that war is inevitable, or that the human race is going to commit suicide," he declared. The new sanctuary, to be built on fashionable Wilshire Blvd., will seat 1,000 persons, and will have a spire towering 146 feet.

## Church Holds Bible-Reading Service

The New Testament was read in its entirety in First Christian church at Boise, Idaho, at a pre-Pentecost service arranged by the women's missionary society. It was the first service of its kind ever held in Idaho. Sixty-eight members of the church's boards and organizations conducted the reading in 15-minute periods, each reader handing the Book to the next one without laying it down. The Rev. Hartzell Cobbs, pastor, opened the observance at 7 a. m., reading the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He closed the service at midnight with a short devotional period. The public was invited to attend any part of the service.

## Asks UN Action On Religious Freedom Denials

An appeal to the United Nations to call a halt to denials of religious freedom in Communist-dominated countries was made here by Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett, Archbishop of York, in his presidential address to the Convocation of York at York, England. He charged that a concerted attempt is being made "in many of the Communist-dominated countries to weaken Christianity by destroying the independence of the churches and by intimidating the worshipper." "The United Nations," he said, "so far appears to have paid strangely little attention to the most flagrant denials of religious freedom. At least, even if it can do nothing else, it should solemnly condemn the States responsible for these violations of human rights." "Unless a halt is called," Dr. Garbett added, "persecuting States will feel they can continue to defy with impunity the decisions of the Assembly."

## Says Russian Church Has Gone Underground

Dr. Edwin A. Bell, American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society representative in Europe, told the Northern Baptist Convention at Boston, Mass., that the Christian Church in Russia has gone underground and that Christians in the rest of Europe are prepared to do the same if necessary. Dr. Bell said that "there is a terribly disturbing campaign in

all Communist newspapers and journals in Eastern and Western Europe to turn the whole of Europe against us in villification and hatred." The Christian Church in Europe is an oppressed Church, he said, "but it knows that in the long run Communism will fail. It knows that it is not the wave of the future because it has no reverence for human life and is utterly lacking in compassion and consideration for individuals."

## Oxnam Proposes Consolidation Of Churches

Rejecting the method of "federated" or "union" local churches as "tending to create new denominations," Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of New York urged at Bloomfield, N. J., instead the consolidation of all Protestant churches on a community level. Such a plan, Bishop Oxnam told the 93rd annual meeting of the Newark Methodist Conference, would eliminate over-churching and harmful denominational competition. "The over-all plan," Bishop Oxnam said, "would involve, for instance, Methodists becoming Presbyterians in a community in which Presbyterians outnumber the Methodists and, concurrently, the Presbyterians of another community becoming Methodists where the Methodists are in the majority." The elimination of competition among the churches, he said, would leave in each small community, "a strong denominational church and would release funds and personnel for services in communities at present unchurched." The bishop said his plan was consistent with enactments of the Methodist General Conference and that it also had the approval of the New York area of the denomination. "Such cooperation at the local level," Bishop Oxnam declared, "will accelerate moves toward union at the national level."

## Methodist Bishop Assures Townspeople

Preachers come to attend a conference with the Ten Commandments and a \$10 bill and break neither of them, according to Methodist Bishop J. Ralph Magee of Chicago. Bishop Magee made the statement to assure the townspeople of Marion, Ill., that they wouldn't have to worry about the usual convention hi-jinks during the sessions of the Southern Illinois Methodist Conference here. The Conference adopted a resolution commending newspapers which have exposed gambling and ministers who speak publicly against gamblers.

Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh upright.—Proverbs 16:13.

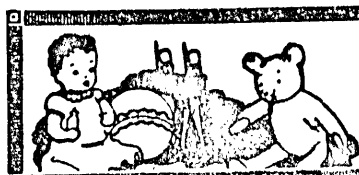
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# THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



## IN STORYLAND

### THE PROMISING FISHES

One morning while Julie and her neighbor Jacky were visiting Julie's grandpa and grandma in the country, a letter came from the city.

"Your big boy cousins, Tom and Nathan from the city, are coming next Friday afternoon to visit us until Monday," grandma told Julie. "They say they wish to go fishing on Saturday at the Ten-Mile Bridge."

Not long after that Julie was saying to Jacky, "Tom and Nathan like to tease, but no matter what they do to us we must not care."

When the big boys came they found that they could not tease their little cousin Julie or her friend Jacky.

Then the big boys did something that was surprising. They said that if Jacky and Julie would help them dig angleworms for pay, they could go fishing, too.

That evening by lantern light, Julie and Jacky helped dig bait until they were so tired they could hardly keep awake.

The next morning when they came downstairs they were surprised to find grandpa and grandma eating breakfast.

"Where are the boys?" Julie asked.

"They must have gone fishing before daylight," grandma answered.

"They said we could go fishing, too!" Julie wailed, with tears in her eyes.

After breakfast Jacky found two short willow sticks on the back doorstep. A string was tied to each stick and at the end of the strings were bent pins.

"And here's a note!" exclaimed Julie. "You read it, Jacky." Jacky slowly read aloud:

"You little kids may go fishing, but not with us. The place for you is the meadow brook! Ha! ha!"

Julie was the first to laugh.

"Let's forget the boys and catch some promising fish," she said to Jacky. "You know that grandpa told the boys the fish promise to bite today. I have thought of another kind of promise for fishes. It is a new game."

Several hours later the two children returned carrying a whitefish on a strong stick. Their eyes were shining.

"We caught our big fish in the queerest way!" Julie exclaimed.

"Will you explain?" demanded grandpa.

"It was Julie's idea," Jacky began. "She said for us to cut all kinds of fishes out of all kinds of paper and play we caught them. So we did it. Remember the gay-colored tissue and the crepe paper? Well, Julie made ruffles of it and sewed on the ruffles for fins and tails, and we had the most fun. We wrote something on every fish except the newspaper ones, and of course they were printed all over. We wrote fish promises. We made the queer fishes promise all kinds of things, and we tied our fishes to the poles."

"We laughed so loud," Julie piped in, "that the real fisherman heard us. He was driving home and stopped to let his horses drink in the brook."

"When he saw our strings of

fishes," Jacky went on when Julie stopped for breath, "he said, 'How'll you trade? I'll give you the only whitefish I have left, and it is a beauty, if you will give me your two strings of fishes for advertising purposes!'"

"And away he went," finished Julie, "with our paper fishes fluttering in the wind on the back of his wagon. He said that he would have all the folks in town laughing tomorrow."

When Tom and Nathan came home in time for supper, the only bites they could report were mosquito bites.

"Never mind," said grandma, "we have fresh whitefish for supper."

"Where did you get it?" asked Tom.

"Julie and Jacky caught it."

Until grandma called the family to the table, the big boys were obliged to listen to a serenade under their window, where Julie and Jacky were singing at the top of shrill voices:

*"Get your wishes  
With promising fishes,  
Take a bent pin  
And drop it in.  
Ha, ha, ha-ha.  
Ha, ha, ha-ha!"*

After supper, when the boys had heard the whole story, Julie and Jacky began to sing again, until



### A MESSENGER

*I found a lovely flower today,  
So fragrant and so sweet,  
Growing in a sunny spot  
On our side of the street.*

*It looked at me as if to say,  
'I'm glad you spied me here.  
Some of my family always come  
About this time of year.*

*We come to bring a message  
Of our Heavenly Father's care,  
You see His loving handiwork  
About you everywhere."*

*Tiny little messenger,  
You bring so much of joy,  
And make the world a lovely place  
For every girl and boy.*

—A. E. W.

### JUST FOR FUN

The driver of Ambulance No. 7 in Washington, D. C., has been ordered never to tell a patient his name. The reason: his name is Jos. St. Peter.—Washington Post.

The speaker sat quietly while the chairman made a long and flowery speech of introduction. At last, rising to his feet, the speaker remarked: "After an introduction like this, isn't it funny what pops up before you!"—Origin unknown.

He came up to the 2nd-grade teacher, his report card in his hand. "It says here," he protested, indignantly shaking the card, "Personal Appearance — Not Good." What's the matter with my personal appearance? I've been here every day."—Capper's Weekly.

A little Milwaukee girl came home from school and mentioned that she

finally grandpa said with a twinkle in his eye:

"Come, come, Julie and Jacky. Don't you see that the big boys can't stand a little teasing." — Frances Margaret Fox, in Zion's Herald.

## IN THE WORLD OF BOYS AND GIRLS

### WAVELETS

*A little girl with eyes as blue  
As any eyes could be,  
And hair as bright as summer sun  
Went wading in the sea.*

*She laughed a silvery little laugh  
To see the small waves play,  
To watch them run and tag her feet,  
Then quickly run away.*

*One overturned her new tin pail  
And tried its best to tell  
That it was sorry for the trick  
By bringing back a shell!  
—Helen G. Snow, in  
The Youth's Companion*

### CONCEIT

*The little brown bird, very dainty  
and wee,  
Plays soft on a flute in the top of a  
tree,  
And the big bullfrog (listen!), O  
bumpity-bum,  
Sits deep in a pool  
That is gloomy and cool  
And plays on a big brass drum.*

*The brown cricket twangs on a ban-  
jo with vim;  
The small tree toad carries a cornet  
with him,  
And the big bullfrog (listen!), O  
tumity-tum,  
Sits winking his eyes  
Very solemn and wise  
And plays on a big bass drum.*

*It's a wonderful choir of many a  
tone,  
But the bullfrog has ears for no  
part but his own.  
He booms from his puddle: "O come,  
come, come!  
This music of mine  
Is splendid and fine.  
Ti-rumpty-tum! Tummy-tum-tum!"  
—Elizabeth Thornton Turner,  
in Exchange*

had to "copy everything off of the paper of the girl sitting next to me because I can't see the blackboard."

The next day her mother took her to the doctor to test her eyes. He finished and looked at her for a minute. "Your eyes," he said, "are even better than normal. Why can't you see the blackboard?"

"Because," answered the little girl, "the girl sitting in front of me is too tall."—Milwaukee Journal.

A member of the Ladies' Aid Society in a small town went to the bank to deposit, as she told the teller, "some Aid money."

Unfortunately, the bank teller thought she said "egg money," and replied: "Remarkable, isn't it, how well the old hens are doing these days?"—Young People.

"My papa's a mounted policeman," said little Pat to his mother's visitor. "Is that better than being a foot policeman?" she asked.

"Course it is," replied Pat, "if there's any trouble, he can get away quicker."



# City Of North Little Rock

Prepared by The Chamber of Commerce

Top to Bottom: First Methodist Church, now under construction; North Little Rock Senior High School; North Little Rock Boys Club; View of one of the lakes and the Old Mill in Lakewood Addition.

**N**ORTH LITTLE ROCK, the host city to the North Arkansas Conference, welcomes the delegates to this important Methodist meeting.

In talking about our city of today it is like asking a man to tell about his family or to describe his favorite hunting dog or to give you the fine points of his riding horse. He knows all their good points and tries to forget their bad ones.

We think that the popular song "Dear Hearts and Gentle People" was written especially for North Little Rock because it describes us so completely. There are about 40,000 of us living here—not too many terribly poor and not too many terribly rich. We are just an average American town where we live and enjoy life. A town where it is up to you which niche you will fill when you become a citizen. If you join one of the many fine churches, a civic club, the country club or any other group, you are not judged by your financial standard but are accepted on your own values and absorbed into the different activities according to your abilities or desires.

How do all these people live? What do they do for a living? Where do they live? These are natural questions that occur to you. Many of our people work for the Missouri Pacific Shops. This railroad company has \$22,000,000.00 invested in their physical property and has a payroll of a million dollars a month and hires 2200 people. At Fort Roots, the Veterans' Hospital, many others are employed. The investment of the Federal Government at this institution is \$43,000,000.00, with 1400 employees and a payroll of more than two million dollars a year. Our 186 manufacturing, distributing and wholesaling establishments absorb approximately 5,000 more and our total payroll amounts to about twenty-five million dollars per year.

Of course, many are business people, preachers, doctors, teachers and clerks—some work for the government and others are employed in Little Rock in different positions.

We live in original North Little Rock, Rose City and in and around Levy, Park Hill and Lakewood, the latter with its chain of seven lakes and 2,000 acres of new residential development.

North Little Rock, in the exact center of the state, immediately across the river from Little Rock, is a separate municipality with an aldermanic form of government. It started in 1839 as a real estate venture when a retired Army officer named DeCantillon, laid out a town site of eight square blocks and platted these blocks into lots and advertised them for sale. The venture was not successful and his project went out of existence within a short time.

For many years the area north of the river had been a hunters' paradise and during this time a white frame hotel was built on what is now either East Washington Avenue or Arkansas Avenue and was a haven for the hunters of the southwest. The name Huntersville was given to this city and it remained our name for many years—in fact, when the first railroad was built in 1853 the name of Huntersville appeared on those old maps.

From 1836 until 1853 North Little Rock, which was then called Huntersville, had been serviced only by the river but in this latter year the Arkansas Central Railroad, the first railroad to connect Pulaski County and Memphis, was built—thus giving us two types of transportation—river and rail. Naturally, Huntersville with its railroad and the ferry (which made this area the natural crossing to the southwest, grew quickly and it soon became a thriving industrial center. With this industrial and residential growth the name of Huntersville was not satisfactory to the civic leaders and was soon changed to Argenta, making the third change in the

name of our city in a period of some twenty or thirty years.

Two legends are given us as to the origin of this name, each of them closely related to each other. One has it that a Frenchman by the name of Burnette came to Huntersville and opened an inn which he called Hotel Argenta from the French word Argent, meaning money or silver. However, the more authentic legend is that the civic leaders met to pick a name for this thriving metropolis. Some suggested Silver City, owing to the fact that a man by the name of Todd was mining silver on what was then known as the "old Hog Thief Trail" and is now known as the "old Mount Vernon Road." These civic leaders decided on the name "Argenta" from the Spanish which means silver. But whether French or Spanish was the basis, the name of Argenta was given to this city in 1871 and remained our name until 1917.

Here, we believe, is the turn of North Little Rock in its struggle for growth. About this time—1871 to be exact—the Cairo and Fulton Railroad was built. This railroad, the forerunner of the present Missouri Pacific Lines, built their shops in North Little Rock. Terminals were built on both sides of the river and the passengers were ferried across the river at great inconvenience. In 1871 work was also started on the Baring Cross Bridge by Alexander Baring of London and Henry G. Marquard, a New York banker. The railroad bridge was completed in 1873 and later a wagon and pedestrian passage was built and for years, until the Main and Broadway bridges were completed, served as the only connection bridge between the twin cities.

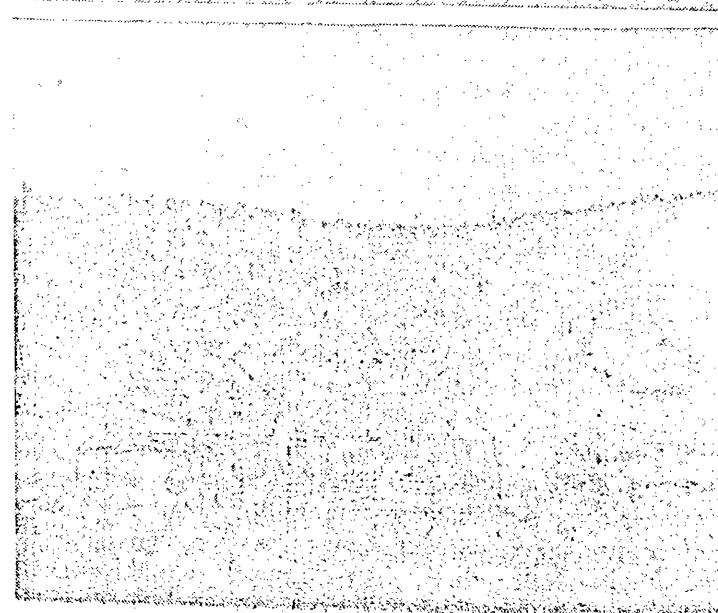
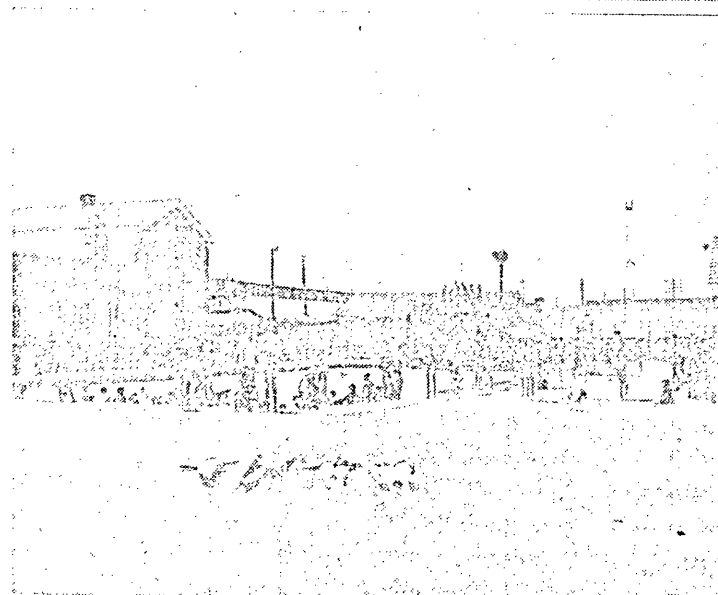
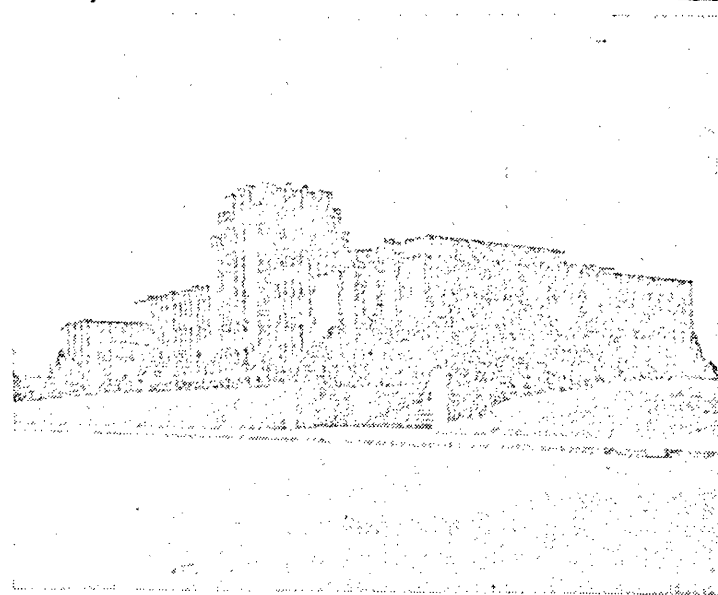
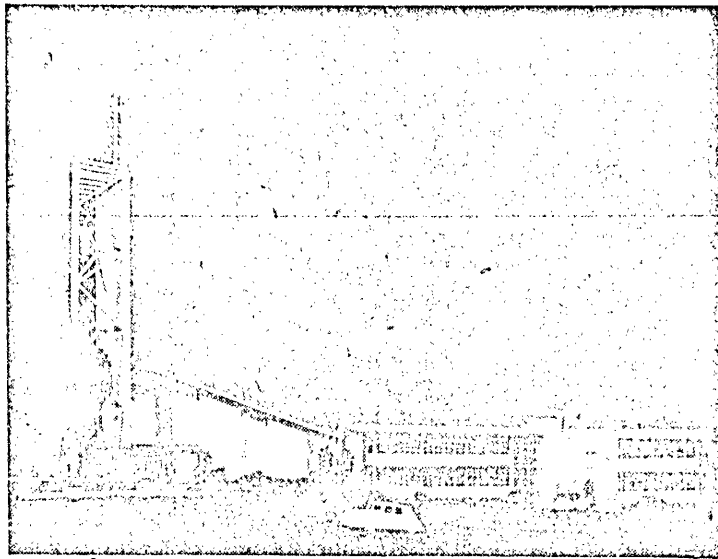
Then came the bloodless battle of the Eighth Ward. Certain real estate interests and others annexed the territory from the river to Thirteenth Street in North Little Rock and named this area North Little Rock and designated it as the Eighth Ward of the city of Little Rock. Just how this was done is still a mystery but, of course, it created a situation which could easily be called crucial. Resentment ran high for many years until a Bill was passed in the Legislature giving a city the right to vote their choice when placed in such a plight. The vote was taken and was overwhelmingly in favor of becoming and staying a part of Argenta—and Argenta was once again a complete city in its own right. The name of Argenta was changed again in 1917 to North Little Rock, thus giving to our city four different names from its start in 1836.

Naturally, when you start to talk about 40,000 people and what they do, where they live, etc., you must of necessity talk about children, statistics and other informative points that dovetail into these facts. We had an official count of 39,552 people in 1940, ninety-nine percent of them are American-born, and 24 percent are colored. This insures prospective industrial leaders the cream of American labor for their industries and business establishments when they decide to locate here. 7,000 white and negro children attend our modern public schools and we have 35 white and many, many negro churches for our spiritual development.

North Little Rock is located in the exact center of our state—all points of Arkansas except Mississippi and Benton Counties are equi-distant from our city. This location results in all state and federal highways centering in our city and the added attraction to distributors that they can serve their customers readily from such a central spot in the Southwest.

The question has been asked as to the why of our industrial development. Here are some facts. We have 186 manufacturing, distribution and wholesale establishments and 1,000 retail outlets. We are centrally located, have three railroads—the Missouri Pacific,

(Continued on page 15)



# Methodism In North Little Rock Town

## WASHINGTON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

This fast growing church of 535 members was organized in 1915 as an East Side Mission. Reverends J. W. Mitchener, Chas. F. Hively, P. R. Eaglebarger, and Geo. A. Freeman were among the preachers who organized the church and served it through those early and difficult years. Rev. B. F. Eddington and John Bayliss, Hendrix ministerial students, served the church about the time it began to show signs of real growth. Revs. Roy Bagley, E. J. Holifield, and A. N. Storey raised Washington Avenue to the status of an

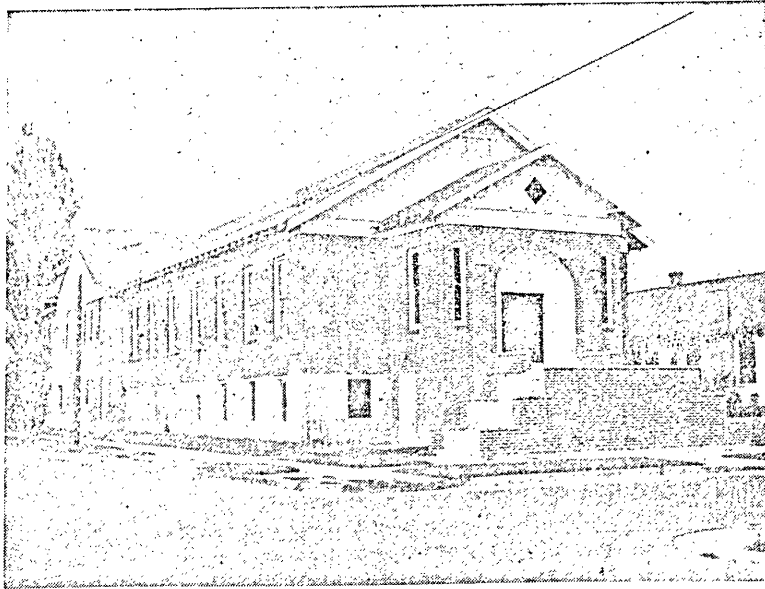


REV. I. L. CLAUD  
Pastor, Washington Avenue  
Methodist Church

effective and promising church for North Little Rock.

The church has property valued at \$50,000 and parsonage worth \$8,000. The present Sunday School enrollment is 464, with E. R. Lendermon as

General Superintendent. The W.S.C.S. with seventy members is led by Mrs. Ray Biles. Cecil Keller is Chairman of the Official Board, Mrs. Wm. Woodsmall is superintendent of Youth Work, and Mrs. J. F. Warden leads the Children's



WASHINGTON AVENUE

Work. C. E. Brown is choir director, and W. C. Oliver is president of the Men's Fellowship. J. F. Warden is Chairman of Board of Trustees and Associate Lay-leader for the Conway District. Rev. I. L. Claud is finishing his second year as pastor. The church has added a part-time secretary, Mrs. Ralph Hammond, this year, and has raised a total budget of \$12,000.

Washington Avenue is the only Methodist Church east of Main Street in North Little Rock. It serves a rapidly growing industrial and residential area in the city. It is

the nearest Methodist Church to populous Rose City at the end of East Third Street and to the extensive residential development on the main highways toward Memphis and St. Louis. Washington Avenue faces the future, well

ately after a meeting held in Levy by the late Rev. J. S. Hackler.

From the time of its organization the church had a part-time pastor for thirteen years. In that period a frame building was constructed but the development was slow and uncertain. In 1933 the Rev. J. H. Hoggard was appointed pastor for full time. During his pastorate plans were made for a new building and construction on the new building was begun. This work was completed during the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Pruitt and the church was dedicated.

During the past twelve months advances have been



REV. RAYMOND DORMAN  
Pastor, Levy Methodist Church

## LEVY METHODIST CHURCH

The Levy Methodist Church was organized in 1920 by Rev. C. F. Hively, who was then pastor of the Gardner Memorial Methodist Church. The organization followed immedi-

made in all areas of the Levy Methodist Church. The total membership is 500. Fifty-five of these have been added this conference year. Many of these have been added through the effective work of

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Methodist A

GARDNER

JU ROY

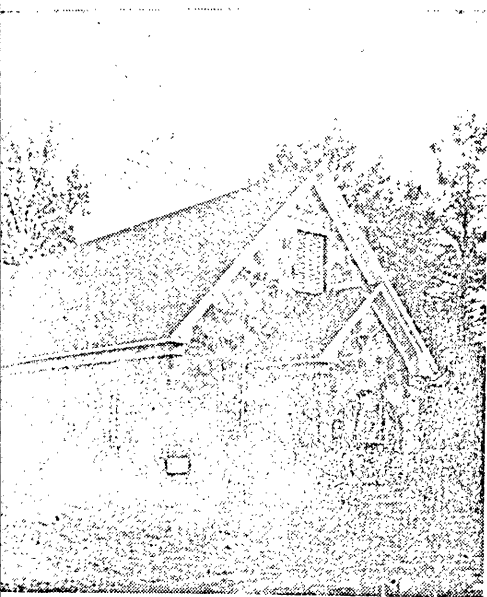
1789

North Little



# Entertain North Arkansas Conference

visitation Treasurer of the board. The men of the church enjoy fellowship through the Men's Club. This organization is headed by Mr. R. H. Evans. The Youth Fellowship is very active and helpful in the total program of the church.



LEVY

number Both Senior and Intermediate groups meet for their own inspiring programs. The pastor is helpful in directing recreation for both groups.

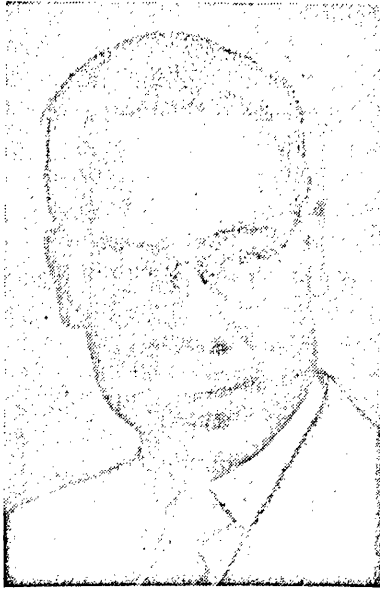
During recent months much improvement has been made on church property. Improvements in the Sanctuary include the enlargement of the auditorium to a seating capacity of 300. New chairs have been placed in the choir and a new Hammond Organ has been installed. Improvement made in the educational building amounts to \$2000.00. A new floor has been put in the recreational hall and a com-

plete nursery added.

Plans are under way for future Advances in Levy Methodism.—Reporter

## THE SYLVAN HILLS CHURCH

The Sylvan Hills Methodist Church was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Rains, and the first services were held on Mother's Day, 1947, in a tent on the Rains' property. The pastors of North Little Rock, led by the Rev. A. N. Storey, were instrumental in the organizing and the first services of the church. The Rev. Randolph Kerr, student at Hendrix, was



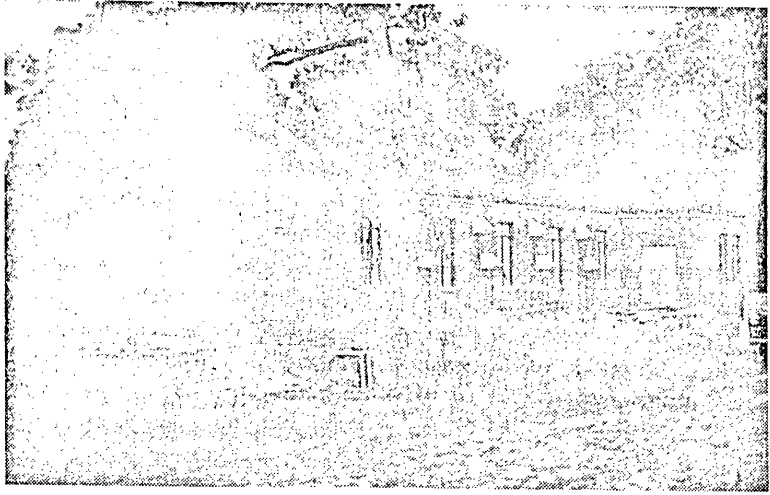
REV. WILLIAM WILDER  
Pastor, Sylvan Hills  
Methodist Church

the first pastor, and under his leadership a full program was developed and by November, forty-four members were on the rolls, and the church had graduated from the tent to services in a temporary build-

ing located on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gragson of Sylvan Hills.

In November, 1947, the church began its first full conference year with the Rev. William M. Wilder as pastor. The church went through this

several extra services, the main one being a sunrise and breakfast in the woods at Easter, which attracted over 100 in attendance. The growth, though not spectacular, was steady, with a net total of seventeen new members. Due



SYLVAN HILLS—Nearing Completion

year with growing pains in its small forty by twenty foot building, and with the help of the D.S., Rev. R. E. Connell, obtained an adjoining piece of land for a building site, gained a net total of twenty new members, and raised \$3666 for its regular budget and toward a new building.

The following year, which was the short 7 month year, more definite plans were decided upon for a building. Though the small amount of space hindered growth, it did not stop a program which included a growing Sunday School, a very active MYF, a strong WSCS, and three services for the church each week. The church also had

partially to some financial help from North Little Rock, the church raised over \$4100 on its budget and building fund. With W. T. Reynolds, chairman of the Board, and a Building Committee consisting of W. Herbert Collins, Irvin Powell, and G. H. Holmes taking the lead, construction on the new church was planned for the coming summer.

This third year of our work has been a grand year. Though we were disappointed in our efforts to do much construction with donated labor, the rather expensive foundation was put in with little cash outlay. This spring, work has

(Continued on page 15)

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Mrs. W. F. Bates

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contributing Editor:  
Ira A. Brumley

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S WORK

To the Annual Meeting of the Little Rock Conference Board of Education

### Training Work

Training classes on Children's Work made available for large part of the Conference. Laboratory classes were held in three centers—Nursery Class, Little Rock, Primary Class, El Dorado, Junior Class, Hope. Continued emphasis on improving Children's Work in the rural churches, with especially fine work being done by Mrs. Monday and Miss McRae in the Little Rock District, Miss King and Mrs. Rushing in the Hope District, and Mrs. Carithers in the Pine Bluff District.

### Vacation Church Schools

About 175 schools were held last year, summer of 1949. An accurate count will be made from the pastors' reports at Annual Conference. Three Volunteer Extension workers worked a total of fourteen weeks in mission areas of the Conference.

Spring of '50, fifteen institutes on Vacation School work, have been held throughout the Conference. Both the total attendance and number of churches represented, has been the largest in recent years. All workers attending have indicated that they will use approved text materials.

### Missionary Education of Children

In the fall institutes on Missionary Education of Children were held in five districts. As a result more churches are having additional sessions with the children, and are making better use of the materials provided. The Conference Secretary, Mrs. Neill Hart, and the Conference Director of Children's Work continue to plan and work together to promote the total program of Children's Work in the Conference.

### State-wide Children's Workers' Conference

This conference was held at Hendrix College, June 28-30, in 1949. The conference was jointly planned and carried out in cooperation with the North Arkansas Conference. July 12-14 is the time set for the conference this summer.

### Conference-Wide Planning Conference For Children's Workers

This is a joint planning meeting for the Conference and District Secretaries and Directors of Children's Work, and was held at Camp Aldersgate, September 27-28.

### Training Juniors In Church Membership

Emphasis in this important matter has been continued with an increasing number of churches offering training each year.

### Junior Camps

Monticello District conducted a camp for Juniors in 1949, at Camp Keener. They are planning their third camp for this summer. Little Rock District is planning their first camp for Juniors this summer, to be held at Camp Aldersgate.

### Organization

Each District has an active Director of Children's Work. Four of the Districts have sub-district leaders, who are active in promoting Children's Work. To all of these volun-

## DR. W. G. WILLIAMS IN PASTORS' SCHOOL

**D**R. WALTER WILLIAMS of the Iliff School of Theology will offer the course on *The Modern Message of the Prophets* in the Arkansas Pastors' School, June 3-7.

Dr. Williams who has been professor of Old Testament and Religion at the Iliff School of Theology since 1942, was born in Staffordshire, England, and became an American citizen in 1929. He graduated with the A. B. degree from Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio, and received the B. D. degree from Garrett Biblical Institute and the Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago. A Methodist minister, he served churches in Ohio for eight years prior coming to The Iliff School of Theology. Dr. Williams is an officer in the National Association of Biblical Instructors and in The American Oriental Society, a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, the National Education Association and of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

Widely and favorably known throughout the Western and Southern States as a lecturer on biblical subjects, Dr. Williams has written a number of professional book reviews and articles in his field, and has written a number of series of lessons for pupils in the intermediate and adult departments of the Methodist church school. The most recent of these has been "Adventures in Religious Discovery" and "Later Old Testament Literature."

As Director of Student Activities

in The Iliff School of Theology, Dr. Williams relates the Cabinet of the Colorado Conference to the students in the school. He constantly counsels



DR. WALTER G. WILLIAMS

with student ministers on problems arising in parish work.

Quiet and direct in his platform address, Dr. Williams is in great demand for youth assemblies and Bible conferences. A rich and thorough background in biblical scholarship is combined with an understanding of people's everyday interests and needs. To hear him speak is to be informed and inspired. — Roy E. Fawcett.

## FIRST VACATION SCHOOL REPORT

The first Vacation Church School report in the Little Rock Conference was received from the cooperative school held at Thornton and Temperance Hill Churches on the Thornton Circuit. There were 41 children enrolled, and 11 workers. They used the recommended texts for this year, Kindergarten, *STORIES OF JESUS*; Primary, *JESUS, THE FRIEND*; Junior, *WE WOULD FOLLOW JESUS*. These churches did not have a Vacation School last summer, but they had such a happy experience with the children this summer, that they hope to make the Vacation School a regular part of the summer program.

### State-wide Children's Workers Conference

The annual state-wide conference for children's workers will be held at Hendrix College, July 12-14. Registration will begin at two o'clock on the 12th. An interesting program is being planned, and details of the program will be published at a later date. Those persons desiring information regarding the conference should write to:

(If from the North Arkansas Conference)

Mrs. Ira A. Brumley  
Conway, Arkansas

(If from the Little Rock Conference)

Mrs. W. F. Bates  
326 Exchange Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas

—Mrs. W. F. Bates

teer workers the Conference staff wishes to express a hearty, "Thank you" for the fine work they have done.

### Conference Director's Report

Taught sixteen training classes (in the Conference)—two were observation classes.

Led in four two-day clinics on Children's Work.

Participated in nine institutes of shorter lengths.

Helped plan and carry out the state-wide Children's Workers Conference.

Assisted with the Little Rock District Camp for Children's Workers.

Conducted the Planning Conference, in cooperation with Mrs. Neill Hart, Conference Secretary of Children's Work.

Participated in the Coaching Conference for Accreditation of Instructors, April 18-20. There were five persons working on courses for Children's Workers from the Little Rock Conference, three from the Southwest Conference.

Attended: One week of the Leadership School at Mt. Sequoyah. Annual meeting of the Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, serving on the sub-committee on Children's Work, Methodist Council of Christian Education which met in Grand Rapids, Nov. 17-21.

Inter-racial work: Cooperated with the Southwest Conference and the C. M. E. Church, taught in two of the C. M. E. Schools for Christian Workers—assisted with the Camp for Children's Workers, held at Aldersgate—and helped plan for the city-wide Leadership School which was held at Philander Smith

College, March 20-24.

Correspondence and personal interviews: both types of help consume much time, but are very valuable. No record has been kept of the large amount of correspondence carried on, or the number of personal interviews and conferences.—Mrs. W. F. Bates, Conference Director of Children's Work, Little Rock Conference.

Gardening is more than a pleasant hobby, more than a means of raising food and flowers, or getting physical exercise. It is all of these, and more—it is a morale builder, an uplifter of the soul.—Doreen Foote, Highways of Happiness.

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# WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. SUE M. WAYLAND, Editor

## JONESBORO DISTRICT MEETING

Forty-eight churches of the Jonesboro district were represented at the district meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service which was held at the Lake Street Methodist Church.

Approximately 150 WSCS members attended.

The meeting was opened at 10 a. m. with Mrs. William Hickox of Jonesboro, president, presiding.

Mrs. Lloyd McClure, conference president from Russellville spoke to the group on "What It Means to Be a Methodist Woman," after which Mrs. H. H. Fulbright of Searcy spoke concerning "Promotion of the Work of the Woman's Organization."

Luncheon was served by the host church in the dining room of the church.

During the luncheon hour, Miss Virginia Guffey of Booneville showed movies and spoke concerning her religious-social work at Booneville.

During the business session, Mrs. Hickox was re-elected by the group to serve as president for 1950-51.

Other officers are vice-president, Mrs. Mavis Settlemyre, Dell; recording secretary, Mrs. Maureen Disinger, Jonesboro; promotion secretary, Mrs. Roy I. Bagley, Blytheville; treasurer, Mrs. E. H. Hall, Dell.

Secretaries of lines of work were: Supply, Mrs. E. D. Beall; Literature and Publications, Mrs. L. O. Jenkins, Joiner; Christian Social Relations, Mrs. Lester Weaver, Turrell; Missionary Education, Mrs. C. O. Wofford, Weiner; Spiritual Life, Mrs. B. B. Lipe, Jonesboro; Youth Work, Mrs. Leroy Henry, Blytheville; Children's Work, Mrs. Albert Hollingsworth, Blytheville; Student Work, Mrs. Robert Killiam, Manila; Status of Women, Mrs. Eugene Shaneyfelt, Osceola; Missionary Personnel, Mrs. George Stickler, Nettleton; and Chairman of Research, Mrs. H. B. Couchman, Trumann.

Dedication services were held after which the officers were installed. Following the installation ceremony, Mrs. Couchman sang a solo.

## COLLEGE HILL WESLEYAN GUILD

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the College Hill church met for their regular monthly business and Installation Service of officers.

The retiring president, Mrs. Clifford Powell, presided over the meeting. Mrs. Leslie Greer was in charge of the program. The subject for the program was "Christianizing the Home."

The group sang "Faith of Our Fathers". The scripture reading from Deuteronomy 6:1-13, was read by Miss Theresa Elliott. Others taking part on the program were Mrs. Mike Auck, Miss Mary Oats, and Mrs. Lowell Durham. Mrs. Leslie Greer led in prayer.

Mrs. Bryan Westerfield had charge of the installation service. Each officer lighted a candle in an impressive ceremony as they made their pledge to carry out their duties as officers.

A social hour followed the service, and twenty-seven members were served delicious refreshments. The hostesses were Mrs. Oscar Williams, Mrs. Lowell Durham and Mrs. E. D. Trice.—Reporter.

## FELLOWSHIP

Charles Wesley

"Help us to help each other, Lord  
Each other's cross to bear;  
Let each his friendly aid afford,  
And feel his brother's care."

"Touched by the loadstone of Thy love,  
Let all our hearts agree;  
And ever toward each other move,  
And ever move toward Thee."

## CAMDEN DISTRICT WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

The meeting of the Camden District Wesleyan Service Guild was held in the El Dorado First Church at 2:30 Sunday afternoon, May 7. The Rev. Edward W. Harris opened the meeting with a prayer. Mrs. Harris gave an impressive devotional and special music was furnished. Mrs. Wilson, president of the El Dorado Guild introduced the following visitors: Mrs. Morehead, Mrs. Nelson Thornton, Mrs. W. P. Reasons and Miss Hanna Kelly. There were 66 members present representing 9 Guilds.

Mrs. Esdelle Finch, District Secretary gave a report on the annual conference which was held in Texarkana. A request was made for old Christmas cards to be used by our missionaries.

Mrs. Finch called our attention to the dates of June 20 through 23. At this time the Conference Mission School will be held in Conway. Also the Jurisdiction Week-end on Mt. Sequoyah, July 7-8-9.

At the business session Mrs. Esdell Finch was re-elected as district secretary and Miss Ruth Phillips as assistant.

Miss Olivia Bradley thanked the district for the life membership presented to her.

Miss Hanna Kelly, our conference Guild president, was the principal speaker for the afternoon. She gave an informative and inspiring account of assembly in Cleveland. We sang the assembly theme hymn, "Draw Thou My Soul O Christ," and among other things Miss Kelly told of the emphasis to be placed on women voting.

The meeting was dismissed with a prayer by Mrs. Finch. The El Dorado Guilds entertained with a lovely tea at the parsonage.

## THE MACEDONIA SOCIETY

The Macedonia W. S. C. S. on the Leonard charge had an all-day meeting for the month of May. The Union Grove W. S. C. S. was represented. The subject of the program "Youth", was in the form of a play, with our pastor's wife (Mrs. Uriah Smith) as leader. The participants in the play were three young women as follows: Mrs. J. D. Clayton, Mrs. Desmon French and Mrs. Lidell Jones.

In the afternoon we had as our guest speaker, Mrs. J. J. Decker, who spoke to us about China; her message was inspirational as well as informational. The church was beautifully decorated with Chinese designs. Mrs. Uriah Smith made some little China cups and filled them with nuts and placed one at each plate for the noon hour. Every

## FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Fayetteville District met at 10 o'clock May 23 in the Educational Building of the Methodist Church in Bentonville. Hostesses were the four district officers from the Bentonville society: Mrs. T. J. Gilstrap, Mrs. Fred Butler, Mrs. Bessie Andrew, and Miss Elsie Henery, assisted by Mrs. Marion Douglas, local president, Mrs. J. C. Gibbons, Mrs. J. R. Craig and Mrs. Ben Chastain.

Mrs. Gilstrap, district president, presided. The resignation of Miss Floy Dodgen, Siloam Springs, secretary of supplies was regrettably accepted, and Mrs. Florence Hamilton, Siloam Springs, was elected to fill the office. Reports of the year's work were given by Mrs. Walter Fieback, vice president; Mrs. R. K. Bent, Spiritual Life; Mrs. Clark McClinton, Missionary Personnel; Mrs. P. T. Verhoeff, Christian Social Relations; Mrs. Paul Bumpers, Student Work; Mrs. J. T. Randle, Youth Work; Mrs. Leslie Beck, Children's Work; Miss Floy Dodgen, Supplies; Mrs. Fred Butler, Literature and Publications; Miss Elsie Henery, Status of Women; Mrs. Bessie Andrew, Missionary Education. Mrs. J. E. Critz read the treasurer's report in the absence of both Mrs. E. G. Kaetzell, Springdale, retiring treasurer, and Mrs. Sam McNair, Fayetteville, newly elected treasurer. Others present and participating in the discussions were Mrs. Howard T. Henry, Springdale, newly elected secretary of Missionary Education; Miss Mary Walker, Siloam Springs, newly elected youth secretary; Mrs. Ralph McGregor, recording secretary; Mrs. Hamilton, and Mrs. J. E. Critz, Fayetteville, retiring conference president. Mrs. Alf Eason, wife of the local pastor, was a guest.

Plans made for the coming year include the annual seminar in September to be held in Berryville, a district meeting in early winter and a spring executive meeting. The chain visitation plan will be started in the fall. The Arkansas School of Missions was discussed and attendance encouraged.

A lovely luncheon was served at noon. The tables were tastefully decorated with flowers and small pictures of Sallman's Head of Christ as individual favors. A large emblem of the Advance program was on the altar and a map of Methodist work around the world, near it.

At 3 o'clock the group was dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Critz.—Reporter.

one enjoyed the program immensely.—Reporter.

## HELENA DISTRICT MEETS

"Christian Faith for a World in Revolution" was the theme of the Helena District Woman's Society of Christian Service at Wynne, May 9. Mrs. J. W. Glass of Marvell, promotion secretary, presided over the business session.

Twenty-two societies were represented, with 121 in attendance.

The meeting opened with a devotional led by Mrs. Richardson of Lexa. The main business of the day was the election of the following officers for the next year: President, Mrs. Chas. Hughes, West Helena; vice-president, Mrs. H. K. Smith, Wheatley; promotion secretary, Mrs. J. W. Glass, Marvell; recording secretary, Mrs. E. A. McCracken, Cotton Plant; treasurer, Mrs. William Hall, Widener; Secretaries of Lines Work, Missionary Education, Mrs. W. A. Harris, Hughes; Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Mrs. T. M. Ellis, Wynne; Literature and Publications, Mrs. L. K. Bratcher, Lexa; Spiritual Life, Mrs. G. G. Doris, Wynne; Youth Work, Mrs. Everett Hood, Earle; Student Work, Mrs. H. O. Jernberg, Vanndale; Children's Work, Mrs. Amos Walker, Marion; Missionary Personnel, Mrs. T. H. Tucker, Hughes; Supplies, Mrs. T. E. Topp, West Helena; Status of Women, Mrs. Fred Kinder, Marianna.

After reports of the various officers, a special number was sung by Mrs. Robert Dilport of Wynne. Highlighting the morning program were addresses by Mrs. Wilma Fullbright of Searcy, Promotion Secretary of the North Arkansas Conference, and by Conference President Mrs. Johnny McClure of Russellville.

After lunch, served by the Wynne WSCS, Miss Virginia Guffey presented slides illustrating her work at the Booneville Sanatorium. Mrs. K. L. Bratcher, Lexa, led the afternoon devotional, and Mrs. Glass, delegate to the Third General Assembly at Cleveland, told of her experiences there.

Mrs. McClure installed the new officers and secretaries, with the congregation joining in the Commitment Service.

A beautiful memorial service was led by Mrs. G. G. Doris of Wynne. Carol Lou Coffin, Carol Wilson, and Gwendolyn Calhoun gave "Beyond the Sunset," accompanied by Sandra Kellogg, all of Wynne. A white flower was placed in a purple floral cross for the following deceased: Mrs. J. D. Rogers, Mrs. L. H. Merit, Mrs. W. H. Buford, Mrs. Geo. Parker, Forrest City; Mrs. Zella Hammond, Wheatley; Mrs. Wess Hall, Wynne; Mrs. John Tankesley, Widener; and Mrs. C. S. Fielder, Helena.

The meeting closed with the group repeating the benediction.—Mrs. E. A. McCracken, Rec. Sec.

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## CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

### HELENA OBSERVES NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

The Board of Education of the First Methodist Church of Helena, Miss Bill Lanford chairman, planned and carried out a very fine observance of National Family Week May 7-11th. Mrs. W. A. Wooten of Memphis, Tennessee was in the church teaching a course throughout the week on "The Church and Home Working Together in the Religious Nurture of Children." A large number attended and received credit for work done. Our Children's Division is imbued with a new spirit and looking to the future with great expectations.

Family Night was observed on Wednesday with a "pot-luck" supper under the direction of Mrs. J. F. Wahl's Sunday School Class. The High School graduates who were members of our church were honor guests and were presented a copy of the New Testament by the church. Mrs. George Hodge presented a group of girls in some very interesting choral numbers. The pastor, Rev. E. J. Holifield, presented a sound film strip, entitled, "Is Your Home Fun?" Several pamphlets on "Teaching Your Child to Pray," "Family Fun," "Worship in the Home," "Good Books for Parents," and other material of a similar nature were presented to each one present. Following a period of recreation and worship the group was dismissed with the feeling that it was good to have been there.

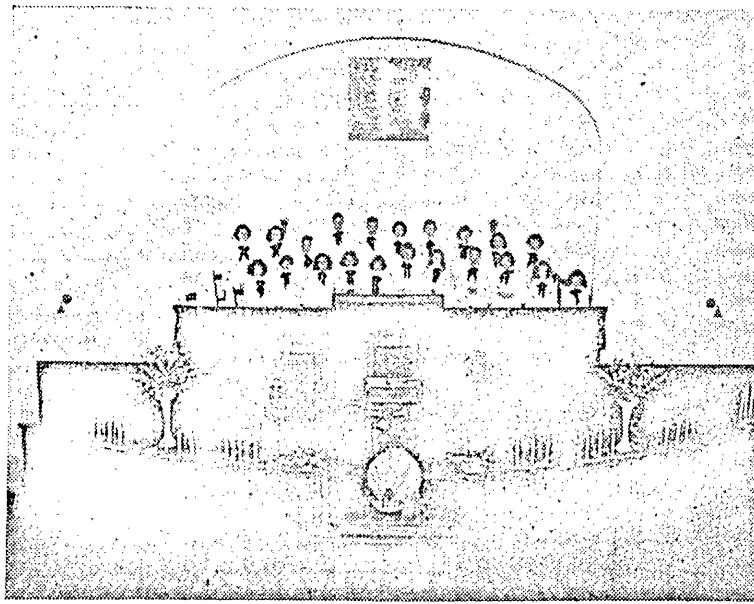
Other features in the observance of the week were the broadcasting of the Fourth Annual Family Week Radio Series entitled, "Happiness is Home Made," by the local radio station KFAA; showing of the sound film strip, "Is Your Home Fun?" to the Lions Club and the Rotary Club; Mrs. Wooten speaking to the Kiwanis Club on "The Home," a letter sent to the membership of the church calling attention to the series of radio broadcasts and Christian literature of our church, and the pastor speaking on "A Christian Home" on Mother's Day and christening the children on that day.—Reporter

### ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

Announcement was recently made to the congregation of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Fort Smith, that the entire church building would be air conditioned this summer. The W. S. C. S. has undertaken the purchase of equipment as a project, and it will be installed as soon as it is available. Two package refrigeration units with a capacity of sixteen tons will be installed, and the cool air will be circulated throughout the building through the ducts of the heating system. The approximate cost will be \$2800.00.

Volunteer workers are also finishing seven hundred feet of floor space on the second floor of the educational wing of the building for much needed class rooms. The new rooms will house a newly organized young adult class and the Intermediate Department. About \$550.00 is on hand for additional improvements to the building and grounds.

### JUNIOR CHOIR AT DERMOTT



Front row left to right: Mary Theresa Atchley, Jeanne Buffalo, Joy Williams, Ann Bynum, Ann Grisham, Barbra Jones, Mary Elizabeth Sims, Ola Mae Kyle, Clarissa Harrison, Linda Smith, Martha Jean Pryor.

Back row left to right: Mrs. Dewey

Stueart, Marilyn Nisler, Jim Bo Wagner, David Tharp, Wesley Van Harrison, Mary Ann Barnes, Ann Oglesby, Ruth Blackman, Kathleen Sage, Karen Kimple.

Mrs. Dewey Stueart is director of the choir. Rev. C. M. Atchley is pastor.

### THE WORK AT JACKSONVILLE

Two years and seven months ago the present pastor was assigned to Jacksonville. At that time most of the land and property of Jacksonville belonged to the United States government. Now nearly all of the land and buildings are owned by private individuals and corporations. Many new homes have been built, and others are under construction. New business firms and factories have located here. We have a new bank, a new hospital, and a new funeral home. Natural gas will be piped into Jacksonville this summer.

During this changing and growing period in Jacksonville the Methodist Church has grown. One hundred fifty new members have been received into the church. The membership of the church has doubled. The budget of the church has nearly doubled while we were raising funds to erect an educational building. This new educational building is now being erected. Thirty-four children have been dedicated at the altar of the church. Four formal church weddings have been performed.

Thanks to the various churches and communities of the state for your contributions of new families and new members. This church would like to say thank you to the conference Mission Board for its contribution to this church in the past. Also, the district board on churches, the district superintendents, and J. P. Almand of Little Rock have had a large share in our progress.—Henry A. Stroup, Pastor

Approximately \$4000.00 has been spent this year for celotex ceilings, asphalt tile floors, painting, furnishings, and other improvements.

Rev. John Bayliss is pastor.—Reporter.

### CHURCH OFFICIALS HONORED

On Monday evening, May 22, Mrs. Ethel L. Patterson entertained in her home in Patterson honoring the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Carl Strayhorn and the teachers and officers of the Church School who were presented gifts during the evening by the hostess.

Contests were enjoyed and cookies and punch were served during the evening by two young women of the church.

Among those from out of town attending were Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chappell, all of McCrory.

Everyone reported a good time in fellowship with each other. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Patterson and we thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of her home.—Reporter

Man shall not live by bread alone. Matt. 4:4.

### FIRST SERVICE IN NEW CHURCH AT WARREN

A capacity crowd of 650 persons attended the opening service Sunday morning, May 14, in the new sanctuary of the First Methodist Church. Rev. J. E. Cooper used the sermon topic, "It is Good for Us to be Here."

In the evening service he chose the subject "The Christian Home." More than 400 attended the evening service.

Large audiences also attended special services during the week. On Monday night Rev. O. E. Holmes of Crossett preached the sermon. Speaker for Tuesday night was Rev. Dan Robinson of Malvern, and Wednesday night, Rev. J. D. Baker of Hot Springs. Both are former pastors of the Warren church.

On Thursday the sermon was preached by Rev. E. D. Galloway of Hope, district superintendent, and on Friday night by Dr. E. C. Rule, superintendent of the Little Rock District. These pastors also have served the Warren church.

The exterior of the church is of Gothic architecture in dark red brick with white stone trimming. Over the imposing entrance there is a large art-glass window and over the pulpit is another colorful art-glass window. The other windows are of uniform arched design with blue, red and green glass predominating.

The interior walls are oak panel wainscoting and light buff plaster. Heavy oak beams support the vaulted ceiling. The mounted pulpit platform and altar rail are of oak, with the choir loft directly behind the pulpit. A seating capacity of 400 in the main auditorium is supplemented by seating space in the balcony and the lounge rooms when opened for about 200 additional worshippers.

Lounge rooms for men and for women flank the foyer. They are winged with extensions in which are the stairways to the balcony. Flanking the choir loft are the choir and chapel rooms, which may also be used for small meetings. To the left, facing the pulpit in an extended wing is the pastor's study and the secretary's office, with convenient entrance from the parsonage which adjoins the church plant on the east on Church street. There is easy access also to the Educational building.

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# ❖ Beebe Methodists Have New Building ❖

By VIRGIL HANKS, Pastor at Beebe

**P**LANS were made in July, 1949, for a three-year program to build an entire new educational building and sanctuary at Beebe. The town of Beebe with a fast growing population had needed a large church for a number of years. Three buildings setting apart from each other made up the only space for the Methodists to use, and these became very crowded and inconvenient especially for an advanced teaching program in the church school.

Under the leadership of the pastor and the district superintendent of the Searcy District, Rev. Coy E. Whitten, a called quarterly conference elected a very able building committee composed of Dr. J. D. Kinley, chairman, R. V. Powell, secretary and treasurer, John E. Owens, designer, and Burton Ham and W. E. Boyer, additional planners.

As plans were presented to this committee and approved by three architects, it was decided to not let a contract, but for this committee to supervise the erection of this building and to hire carpenters by the hour. This was done with a great saving of money.

Some men donated labor on the razing of the old main sanctuary and during the building of the new buildings. The two old buildings used for educational purposes were sold and the Methodists began using the grade school auditorium and class rooms for services.

At the beginning of plans for this building, a Presbyterian, Mrs. D. B. Brown, presented a check for \$100.00 to start the gifts coming in. This challenge brought the Methodists and other friends to action. As the erection of the buildings progressed, money began to come in for the entire amount pledged, which was to have been given during three years. In less than five months, services were held in the fellowship hall of the educational unit and church school in the class rooms of the new building.

All this time the building commit-

tee was faithfully working and remaining true to a promise given the congregation — "We will not go in debt. We are going to pay every cent as we go." This has been true, and only for a short time during the program of building was the erection delayed.

Pre-Easter services were conduc-

water heater, serving table and window, and fully furnished with matched dishes, glasses, linens, and silverware, and folding tables and chairs for the dining hall, which is 30x52.

The church parlor is beautifully furnished by the ladies of the church with sofa chairs, drop-leaf tables,

study and office, is on the opposite end of the building from the educational unit, and on each side of the choir, which seats 30 members, the piano, and a space provided for an organ. Behind the choir, and on the end of the building is a 7x10 fired-mosaic glass window given by the children of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Garrett. The picture in the window is of "Christ—come unto me."

A Gothic paneled choir rail, with swinging doors, and a chancel rail to match has been given by Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Garrett. A new communion table was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harrison; a pulpit Bible by Mrs. T. T. West, and the pulpit chairs by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

A bronze Gorham altar set, two candle holders, a 24-inch cross, and four offering plates, and an electronic "chimes" system was given by Dr. and Mrs. D. W. Sloan and daughter, Elizabeth. This is heard coming by time-clock from the tower at 12:15 and 5:00 p. m. each day, and at 9:00 a. m. on Sunday. Public Address equipment is provided when needed, along with a microphone and ear phones for hard-hearing people.

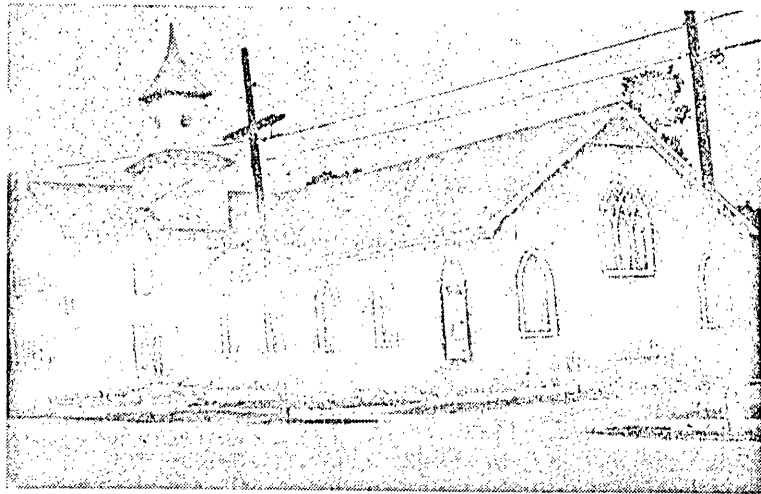
The Wesleyan Service Guild has furnished a stained glass window above the entrance with the picture of Jesus knocking at the door.

The sanctuary has six beautiful direct and indirect chandelier lights. The heating plant is automatic forced air. The seating capacity of the entire sanctuary is 350.

During the last two years the church has made much progress. The pastor's salary has been raised from \$2100.00 to \$3000.00, with over 33 1/3 percent increase in world service givings and \$1000.00 for the Advance for Christ.

Under the present pastorate, there have been added to the membership of the church 155 new members. 101 of these have been by vows and profession of faith.

Special dedication services will be held in the near future.



BEEBE METHODIST CHURCH (Nearing Completion)

ted in the new sanctuary, seated with new pews and provided with a new pulpit. Ten memorial Gothic windows made worship a blessing to everyone.

As of June 1, 1950 there is no debt on the building. All the brick is paid for and \$1700.00 is available for the completion of this task. This brings to Beebe a beautiful red brick church and educational building, built in less than eleven months at a total cost of less than \$31,000.00, with a very conservative value of \$40,000.00 and \$10,000.00 furnishings and equipment.

The educational unit is two story, 40x76, with class rooms on the first floor, and the kitchen and fellowship hall on the second floor. The kitchen is fully equipped with the "last word" in Youngstown equipment, two Frigidaire stoves and hot

lamps and bookcases, and a Spinnet piano given by Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Kinley.

The young people's department has a beautiful blue pull curtain for the worship center with a large picture of Jesus behind it. This has been made possible by the young people's counselor, Mrs. Frank Garrison.

There are departmental class rooms for nursery, kindergarten, primary, junior, intermediate, young people, and adults.

The entire building is joined at the entrance, which is on the side of the structure. The beautiful Spanish-shaped tower stands high above the entrance. The sanctuary is 38x60 with a balcony above the narthex, which extends into the educational unit, seating 75 people.

The choir room and minister's

## REV. AND MRS. E. H. HOOK PRESENTED WITH GIFTS

The ministers of the Fayetteville District and their wives and children were dinner guests of Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Hook on Mt. Sequoyah on May 31. At noon the parsonage families assembled in the Mt. Sequoyah cafeteria and sang, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Rev. S. M. Yancey gave the invocation.

The gracious hostess, Mrs. Hook,

was assisted in serving the delicious meal by Mrs. S. M. Yancey, Mrs. J. E. Critz and Mrs. Bill Adair.

Shortly after the meal was served Rev. Alvin Murray presented Mrs. Hook with a beautiful corsage on behalf of the ministers and their wives, then Rev. Harold Womack, on behalf of the ministers and their wives, presented Brother and Mrs. Hook with an electric clock and a tea and coffee silver service. They responded with words of appreciation. Rev.

S. M. Yancey also spoke in appreciation of Brother and Mrs. Hook. They are now in their new home on Mt. Sequoyah.—H. W. Jinske.

When we get to the place where we pay more attention to the high-chair, we will have less need for the electric chair.—Lewis Lowes.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.—Prov. 4:25.

"Where everyone thinks alike," says Dr. Wm. Trufant Foster, "few are doing much thinking."—Nashua Cavalier, him, Nashua Gummed & Coated Paper Co.

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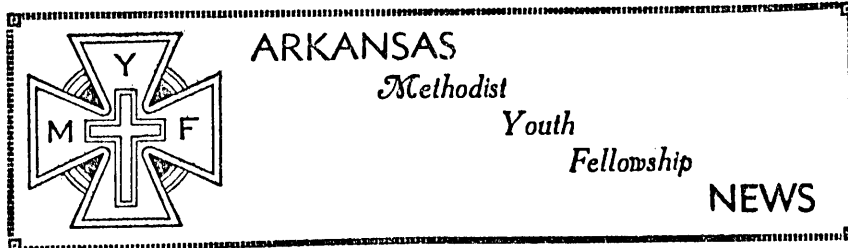
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### HOPE DISTRICT M. Y. F. HAS ANNUAL MEETING

On the night of Tuesday, May 16, the countryside was swarming with counselors and eager-minded young people going to Nashville, Arkansas, for a District M. Y. M. meeting at the First Methodist Church.

When they arrived, they were cordially invited downstairs, where they were given their name cards and then ushered into line. The line ended at the corner of a table which was heaped with food. After being served, they were escorted to the sanctuary.

A period of singing of some of the great hymns of the church was inspirational and after prayer by Rev. Mark Vaught, everyone got into the spirit of worship.

The president presided over the business session. The following slate of officers was elected:

President, Anita Copeland, Hope; Vice-president, Jimmie Lee Burkhardt, Nashville; Secretary, Virginia Hamilton, McCaskill; Treasurer, Jimmie Carter, Texarkana, Fairview; Publicity chairman, Tommy Farmer, Texarkana, Fairview.

The following are Commission Chairmen: Worship and Evangelism, Shirley White, Hope; Community Service, Glenna Hilton, Shady Grove-N. Mena; Recreation, Bill Carver, Mena; World Friendship, Betty Rose Kennedy, Nashville.

The group elected Anita Copeland, president from Hope, as Conference Council Representative.

After officers were elected the different camps which are open to the youth of this district this summer, were discussed.

This district voted to buy one cabin at the new Conference Camp. The cost of the cabin will be \$2500.00. Some of the larger churches were asked to pay \$100.00 and the smaller churches were asked to pay between \$50.00 and \$75.00. The president asked if any pledges could be turned in at that time and \$123.00 was raised, leaving \$2377.00 to be raised. By these figures you can see if we want to have a place to spend the hot summer months, this amount will have to be raised right away.

After the business meeting a count was taken and there were 133 present.—Tommy Farmer, Publicity Chairman.

### GALLOWAY-TOLLESON SUB-DISTRICT

The Galloway-Tolleson Sub-District had its meeting on May 8 at Clarendon with 112 present. The towns represented were Brinkley, 24; Clarendon, 39; Cotton Plant, 17; Holly Grove, 13, and Hunter 19.

President Mary Ann Moffitt of Brinkley led the group in a discussion on the Methodist Youth Fund and the changing of the Sub-District name. It was decided that the offering of \$11.49 would be sent for the Methodist Youth Fund. The name was changed from the Tri-County to the Galloway-Tolleson Sub-District honoring two of our retired ministers, Rev. J. J. Galloway and Dr. F. M. Tolleson. The girls' chorus of the Clarendon High School sang

several numbers. Nanette Patchell and Blanche Boals sang a duet, "Praise Ye the Lord."

Rev. Ethan W. Dodgen of Forrest City talked to the group about assemblies and camps. The group then adjourned to Clarendon's new recreation hall for recreation and refreshments. This was the first time the hall was used.

The place of the next meeting will be announced later.—Louise Carvell, Publicity Chairman.

### WESLEY FOUNDATION OFFICERS ELECTED

Wesley Foundation officers for 1950-51 were installed at the close of the morning worship service on May 21, at the First Methodist Church, Conway. They are: Joanne Davis, ASTC, Conway, president; Hallie Jo Hart, Hendrix, Camden, vice-president; Carolyn Ricketts, Hendrix, Bauxite, secretary; Robert Hixson, ASTC, Conway, treasurer; Charlotte Berry, ASTC, Crossett, and Louise Fincher, Hendrix, Waldo, morning worship; Doris Hodges, ASTC, North Little Rock, and Richard Hudson, Hendrix, Delight, evening worship; Gerald Fincher, Hendrix, Waldo, recreation; Thomas Hugh Moore, ASTC, Morrilton, publicity; Lola Featherston, Hendrix, Paris, Wesley steward; Bonnie Lee, ASTC, McCrory, and Gloria Mitchell, Hendrix, Wesley Players.

Rev. Allen D. Stewart was in charge of the installation service which closed with a prayer of dedication.—Reporter

### LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT WELCOMES FELLOWSHIP TEAMS

Ten churches in the Little Rock District will have more active youth groups because of the Fellowship Laboratory Training Conference to be held at Aldersgate, July 10-15.

Choice youth and their leaders from each district in the Little Rock Conference in attendance will form teams going into local churches in the district three afternoons and evenings during the week as a part of their training and service.

The ministers and youth of Des Arc, Hazen, Martindale, Walnut Grove, Mabelvale, Oak Forest, Geyer Springs, Bethel, and Sardis have invited a team to be with them for the three days. The women of the church are cooperating in providing the evening meal.

The five youth representatives from the Little Rock District who will attend the Laboratory Conference are Gaines Young, Carlisle; Helen Hamilton, First Church, Little Rock; Dorothy Baber, Pulaski Heights; M. L. Scott, Winfield; Caroline Ricketts, Bauxite.

### LUNCH FOR DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The directors of religious education of the Little Rock Conference are invited to meet for lunch at Phillips in Hot Springs June 10. Those who do not know the location may meet Mrs. Harvey Couch at First Methodist Church at noon.

### ELOISE BUTLER SUB-DISTRICT

The Eloise Butler Sub-District youth group conducted its May meeting at Reyno Church. Representatives from eleven churches made a total attendance of 134. Even though Strangers Home Church was farther away from the meeting than any other church in our area, it had twenty representatives to attend this meeting.

Young people from Reyno, Biggers and Pocahontas participated in the special parts of the worship service. Rev. Harold Spence brought a brief but very inspiring message to young people. The message was centered around the thought, "The Present Life Has a Great Purpose." He challenged each of us to do great things and make big plans, but in making these plans he advised us to begin them with a Christian life as the foundation.

At the close of the regular worship period, we had a short installation service in which the officers for the coming year were elected. We now feel that our group is organized well enough to carry out a wonderful program during the coming year.

Our president, Eugene Brand, conducted the business session of the program. It was during this time that we discussed the change of time for our meeting. We decided on 8:00 p. m.

The Reyno Church group served very delicious refreshments of strawberries, ice cream, cake and cold drinks.

Miss Phyllis Ryland of Black Rock and Miss Emily Lee of Sedgwick, both recreation leaders, conducted our games for the evening.

At the last council meeting, the members of the council prepared a mailing list which is as nearly complete as we could make it. We voted that at least two special offerings each year would be sent by our group to the Eloise Butler mission field. We also decided to send a contribution to the Methodist Youth Fund. Rev. Harold Spence was authorized to buy two floodlights which will be taken to each meeting so that we may use them in our summer recreation periods.

Our next regular mass meeting will be held at Egypt on June 19.—Jean Arnold, Reporter

Future wars are costing us so much we shall never be able to finishing paying for past ones.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### YOUTH DAY AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT HOT SPRINGS IS JUNE 10

The Little Rock Sub-District M. Y. F. has chartered a bus to take the Little Rock group to Hot Springs.

The bus leaves Winfield Methodist Church, 16th and Louisiana, at 12:30 Saturday afternoon. This will enable the people to come who have to work until 12:00 o'clock. The bus will take the group directly to the camp site and back to the church for the evening meeting, leaving as soon as the meeting closes, at about 9:30.

Cost for all transportation will be \$1.00, and cost for supper at camp 75c.

Call the sub-district counselor, Mrs. Duane Brothers at First Methodist Church, 2-2313, the number you would like to have on the bus. The first forty who make reservations will be the 40 to go.

Reservations must be in before Tuesday, June 6.—Jimmy Flack, Sub-District President

### SEARCY SUB-DISTRICT M. Y. F.

Cabot was host to the Searcy Sub-District on Monday, May 22. Thelma Dean Rice was leader of a musical program. The guest speaker was Rev. Bob McCammon, assistant pastor of Asbury Methodist Church, Little Rock.

The president, Jimmy Fisher, presided over the business session. The roll count was Bald Knob, 3; Beebe, 24; Cabot, 28; McCrory, 16; McRae, 5; Searcy, 15 and Ward, 4.

The next meeting will be held at Searcy on June 26. There will be a special installation service for the new Sub-District officers, and all churches are urged to have a large representation.—Reporter

### OFFICERS INSTALLED FOR LITTLE ROCK SUB-DISTRICT

The following officers were installed in the Little Rock Sub-District Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting at Hunter Methodist Church, May 15: President, Jimmy Flack; vice-president, Dean Clark; Secretary, Bobbie Jean Norwood; treasurer, Pat Deller; publicity, Jimmy Cox; worship and evangelism, Mary Arnold; Missions and world friendship, Harold Smith; community service, Ann Easley; and recreation, Ethel Griffin. Counselor is Mrs. Duane E. Brothers. The council met Tuesday night, June 6, to make plans for the year.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Continued from page 16)

we return?" Then the prophet raises the further question, "Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of host, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

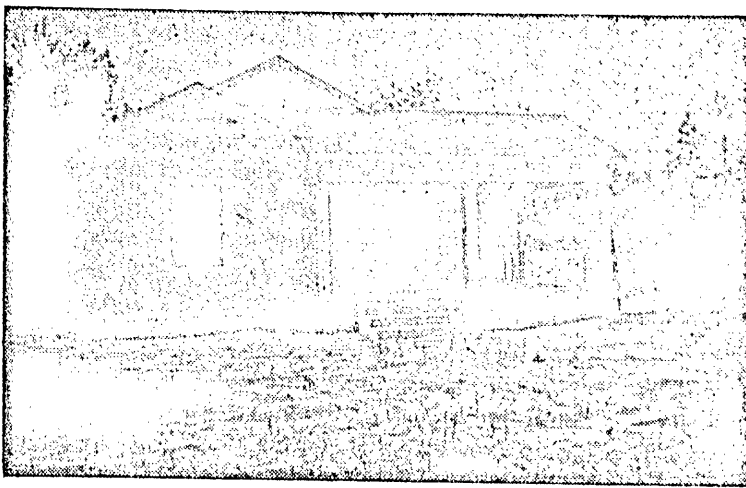
Malachi realized that the great trouble with the people was the fact that they had so cheapened religion that it meant nothing to them. He felt that if they took religion seriously enough to make a sacrifice for it that there would be a spiritual awakening. He was so convinced of this matter that he represented God as challenging the people to put him to the test. Here was a matter that they could try out in a practical way and learn whether or not it was the truth of God.

We are in the age of grace and many contend that the tithe is not binding upon us as it was upon the Jews under the law. But this much is certain, the custom of setting apart a definite portion of one's income for religious causes is a fine thing. Those who give haphazardly always give poorly. A great joy will come to any person who develops the habit of the separated portion and definite giving. The payment of the tithe—for it was always thought of as a payment and not a gift—did one fine thing for the Jews, it kept constantly before their minds the fact that God is the giver of all good, and that man is indebted to God for all he has.

The Jews under the law paid the tithe. Let it be remembered that Christ never lowered any religious standards whether they had to do with moral values or material things. The Sermon on the Mount shows how Christ constantly raised the standards of the law. We claim that we get more under grace than the Jews did under the law. It would be rather strange to imagine that God would expect more of them under their lesser blessing than he does of us.

Christ did not condemn the custom of tithing as some contend. He condemned the Jews for expecting to buy their way to heaven through the tithe while they neglected the weightier matters of justice, mercy, and love. After speaking about the

## COLUMBIA CIRCUIT PARSONAGE



The new parsonage of the Columbia Circuit was finished in March of this year at a cost of \$4,500. The estimated cost of parsonage, furniture and land is \$8000.

The parsonage is located 6½ miles southwest of Magnolia on the Burnt

Bridge Road, on a convenient mail route, school bus route, and natural gas line. The Circuit consists of four churches—Philadelphia, Sharman, New Hope and Harmony. Rev. L. Gray Wilson is pastor.

## THE SYLVAN HILLS CHURCH

(Continued from page 9)

gone forward in earnest, and it is hoped that the church can be in use by conference time.

At the present time, after almost exactly three years of existence, the church has an estimated \$10,000 in land, equipment, and buildings, and though \$2000 has been borrowed on the church, there is around \$1500 in the treasury to date. The church has grown until it has 103 members on its rolls.

Throughout the three years, the members of the church have cooperated, worked, and served in every

tithe he said, "This you ought to have done, but not left the other undone." Christ had but little to say about the tithe because his followers were doing far more. A careful study of the early Christian movement will show this. Many were not only giving the tithe of their income but were selling their property and making distribution of the proceeds among the needy.

## The Sins of Our Day

The sins of our time are very much like those of Malachi's day. Religion is still cheapened through our refusal to sacrifice for it. Materialism is still rampant. The divorce evil is still with us. And we have not yet learned to treat God as Father and all men as brothers.

business in 1949.

These are only a few facts about our city. We are justly proud of our progressive and cultural growth and we bid you welcome as visitors or future citizens, according to your desires.

## CENTERTON

The church at Centerton has made progress this year. The Church School has the largest enrollment and the largest average attendance on record of its history. Thirteen new members have been added to the church. The finances have all been paid in full. A grand total of \$4217.00 has been raised for all purposes.

Since the beginning of remodeling the parsonage nineteen months ago a total of \$8482.00 has been contributed for all purposes. Of course, some of this amount was estimated value of labor given, but a conservative estimate was placed on labor. "The people had a mind to work."—C. H. Harvison, pastor

## SEE JUNE 8 CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

The Christian Advocate in its issue of June 8, which is to be a Methodist Landmarks number, will present to its readers brief characterizations of Methodist centers of interest and a map which will show locations of Methodist educational institutions, mission enterprises and other Methodist projects. No doubt this will prove a real service to Methodists who may be vacationing or traveling this summer. They will want to file this issue of the Advocate and when touring use it as a supplement to road maps and guide books.—Campus News.

The world does not owe every child a living, but it does owe it access to the things by which life can be lived.—Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, noted clergyman and author, Pulpit Preaching.

## CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK

(Continued from page 7)

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## The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

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### HOW DOES PRACTICAL MORALITY AFFECT RELIGION?

LESSON FOR JUNE 18, 1950

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:  
Malachi 2:10, 13-17, 3:7-10, 4:5-6.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?"—Malachi 2:10.

#### The Prophet

The word "Malachi" means messenger. It was taken from the Hebrew word "malakhiyah" which means messenger of Jehovah. It is, therefore, not a proper name. We do not know the name of this particular prophet. He is simply designated as the messenger of Jehovah. All prophets could be thus designated. We are in the habit, however, of using the term "Malachi" as though it were a proper name and it will be thus used in this article.

Thus far this year we have studied the prophecies of Amos, Hosea, Micah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. During December of last year we studied First and Second Isaiah and Jeremiah. All of these men prophesied before the fall of Jerusalem which took place in 586 B. C. under the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. Malachi prophesied long after the fall of Jerusalem. His work dates from about the year 46 B. C.

When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judea he carried most of the Jews away into captivity to Babylon. In the year 537 B. C. the Persian Cyrus captured Babylon and permitted the exiled Jews to return to their native land. Many of them took advantage of the opportunity. When they reached their homeland they began rebuilding the Temple and completed and dedicated it in the year 516 B. C. They felt that this would usher in the golden age of Hebrew history of which their prophets had spoken and which they had expected for so many years.

They were badly disappointed at this point. Conditions grew worse in the place of better. A terrible plague of locusts came which completely devoured the crops. Blight struck the vineyards and the orchards and the vines and trees cast their fruit before it ripened. This led to a great economic depression. Suffering was on every hand. The people felt that God owed them a special favor for their return to the Holy Land and their rebuilding of the Temple. When his blessings did not seem to be forthcoming they became indifferent toward their religious duties and responsibilities. This led to scepticism which finally culminated in open rebellion against the will of God. In brief, this was the condition of Judea at the time Malachi prophesied. This condition lasted for about eighty years, from the dedication of the new Temple in 516 B. C. to the coming of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in 444 B. C.

#### The Prophet's Message

The people felt that they had made a great sacrifice and that God had failed to keep his promises. They even went so far as to say that God was indifferent to sin bless-

ing evil people more than the good. Malachi tried to straighten them out on this matter. He insisted that God had not failed in his promises to the nation. The people had brought these calamities upon themselves by their sins. In 3:5 he mentioned some of the most prevalent sins of that day: "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against the false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and turn aside the sojourner from his rights, and fear not me, saith Jehovah of hosts."

The prophet further condemned them because of the laxity of their family life. He knew that the strength of the nation depended upon good, clean home life. He noted the fact that many of the Hebrews were divorcing their wives in order that they might marry younger pagan women. When the Jews were exiled from Judea the pagans came in to take their place. They came to possess much of the land. By casting aside their lawful wives and marrying these foreign women these Hebrews bettered themselves financially. The prophet accused them of putting the material things of life ahead of the spiritual values.

The prophet also accused them of dealing treacherously with one another. In this connection he called attention to the fact that God was the father of all and because of this fact they were brothers. This is one of the first clear statements of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, to be found in the Bible. Malachi applied it only to the Jews, Christ later took the same idea and applied it to all mankind. The prophet realized that since God is the father of all Israelites, a fact which made them all brothers, then mistreatment one of another was sin against God. Like other prophets, Malachi insisted that God is interested in the social acts and moral attitudes of the people. He believed that people had to be right in their relationship toward God and toward each other if their worship was to be genuine and real. He appealed for a religion that was purified in the Temple worship but that did not stop there. It must be a force that reaches out to and transforms every phase of the life of the people.

Malachi's message has been called "prophecy within the law". It is so designated because he was true to both. He was loyal to the teachings of the prophets who had gone before him, but he was equally loyal to the law. Some of the other prophets had been so strong in their condemnation of social injustice that they did not emphasize the law. Malachi carried both emphases along together. He also differed from the others a

bit in his emphasis upon ritual in worship. The other prophets became so incensed at the elaborate ritual that the people carried on in their worship while they were very unjust in their treatment of each other that they seemed to condemn ritual altogether. Malachi believed in beauty of ritual worship but he insisted that it must be backed up by good, practical everyday living in the matter of treating God and fellowman right.

Malachi used a unique method in getting across his message. In the name of God, he would first accuse the people of doing wrong. He would then have them raise a question about the wrong, implying their innocence. He would then proceed by reasoning and argument to show how they had done wrong. He uses this method seven different times in his book. A good example of it is found in 2:17: "Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? In that ye say, Everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or where is the God of justice?" Here, he condemned the people of being guilty of two sins—they were so confused in their moral sensibilities that they thought God approved of evil, and they raised questions about the goodness and justice of God.

#### The Tithe

This portion of Malachi's message is of such importance that it deserves being set apart. For many years the Jews had practiced the tithe. In fact the custom was even older than the Hebrew race. In Genesis 14:20 we read of Abraham paying tithes to Melchizedek.

As stated above, religion during the days of Malachi was at a mighty low ebb. There was both an economic and religious depression. Not only money, but the material com-

forts and even necessities of life were very scarce. There were two reasons for the people failing to pay the tithe at this time—first, they had lost interest in religion. It had become so cheap to them that it was not worth such a sacrifice. Second, the people had become so poor that they felt they could not spare the tithe.

Malachi argued that their economic as well as their religious failure had been brought about through their failing to pay the tithe. He reminded them of the calamities that had come upon them—the failure of the crops, the blighting of the vines and fruit trees and the coming of the locusts. He insisted that if they would deal fairly with God he would rebuke these devourers and bring an end to the plagues. Speaking through the prophet God said, "From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts." Regardless of how far wrong people have gone there is always a chance for repentance. But in the place of repenting the people raised the question, "Wherein shall

(Continued on page 15)

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