

## The Responsibility Is Mutual

OUR pastors in both the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference are now "on the job" for a new conference year. Many of them are serving the same charge as last year. There are many others who have been appointed to new charges.

This should be kept in mind regarding the membership and minister in their relation to the church program—the responsibility for the success of that program is mutual. No church can succeed in its program simply because of the tireless service of a pastor be he ever so consecrated and efficient. He is the leader of the congregation and should accept full responsibility at that point. However, unless members of his church are willing to be led, unless they willingly cooperate it will be impossible for either the pastor or the church to really succeed.

It is just as true that no Methodist Church can reach its largest possibilities without the active, sympathetic, cooperative leadership of a consecrated pastor. It is just as necessary for him to cooperate with the congregation and most especially with its leadership as it is for the congregation to cooperate with him.

There are churches of some denominations that seem to get on reasonably well over a period of time without a pastor. There are preachers of such denominations who seem to get on right well for a time without an active pastorate. That situation does not obtain in The Methodist Church. Across the history of our church our ministers have been accustomed to having regular appointments. Across the same years Methodist churches have regularly had pastors. When a Methodist Church can no longer have a pastor, it soon ceases to exist as an active Methodist Church.

Methodist Churches and Methodist ministers are mutually dependent on each other, and they are mutually responsible for the welfare of each other.

## Town Church Conference July 4th-5th-6th

THE METHODIST CHURCH has many meetings, even some Methodists think too many, and when another meeting is announced one wonders if it will be just another meeting. The Town Church Conference scheduled to meet July 4-5-6 in Baldwin, Kansas, will not be just another meeting. In fact, Dr. A. W. Martin told the North Arkansas Conference Town and Country Commission last week that "this meeting will be the most significant meeting in Methodism this year."

This conference is for that part of Methodism west of the Mississippi River. Pastors, local church leaders and conference leaders are invited to spend the two and a half days considering the problems peculiar to town churches. A similar conference, held last year at Lynchburg, Va., was acclaimed most successful and helpful.

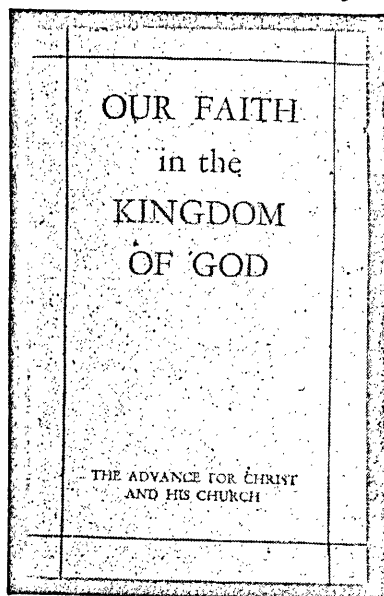
Arkansas Methodism will do well to have a good representation in attendance at this conference, especially since a very large proportion of the Methodist churches of Arkansas are included within the classification of town churches. Many local churches will find they have invested wisely if they will make it possible for their pastor to attend this meeting.

## We Believe The Kingdom Of God Is Eternal

WHEN Jesus, at the beginning of Passion Week, rode a donkey into Jerusalem at the hand of a triumphal procession, the world was in the presence of a new kind of a King and a new kind of a Kingdom.

While kings of earth were depending on pomp, splendor and the other trappings of royalty to give prestige and power to their positions, Jesus, the King of kings gave no thought or place to such externals.

In a world in which the temporary nature of earthly kingdoms was a recognized, accepted fact, Jesus let it be known that the Kingdom He was building was of an entirely different nature. Prophets had taught and Jesus emphasized the



fact that the Kingdom of God is eternal. Jesus let it be known that the Kingdom of God was "at hand," and was at work in the world. While the Kingdom was at work IN the world Jesus said, "My kingdom is not OF this world."

The Pharisees demanded of Jesus to tell them "when the kingdom of God should come." His reply was, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

The Kingdom of God exists without regard to time and exists even independent of the earth itself. As the earth is an infinitesimal speck in the measureless creations of stars and planets in God's universe, so that part of the Kingdom of God at work in the world likely is a microscopic segment of the Kingdom of God as it applies to the total creations of God.

It is our feeling that the term Kingdom of God is an inclusive term that includes everything that God does throughout the entire universe. The Church of God at work in the world is the channel through which the Kingdom work is done in the world. The church is eternal because it is a part of a Kingdom of God that is eternal.

## A New Secretary For Town And Country Commission

AT the recent session of the North Arkansas Conference Rev. J. Albert Gatlin was appointed Secretary of Town and Country Commission. For the past two years he has been pastor of First Church Searcy. He succeeds Rev. Joel Cooper who completed the year's work after Rev. Glenn F. Sanford accepted a position as Secretary Town and Country Work. General Board of Missions and Church Extension.

For some years now, Brother Gatlin has given evidence of a special interest in and understanding of the work of our church in rural areas. While pastor at Morrilton, he led in a rural church program in Conway County that attracted church-wide attention. While District Superintendent on the Jonesboro District for six years, he promoted a rural program that was publicized throughout the church. In the two years he served as pastor at 1st Church Searcy, he promoted a comprehensive rural program in the territory about Searcy that brought a new day in cooperative service between the city and rural churches of that area.

In his new appointment Brother Gatlin will be free to give his full time and energy to this work for which he seems to have a personal interest and for which he seems to be especially fitted.

We are publishing in this issue of The Arkansas Methodist, on page three, a statement by Brother Gatlin outlining in general the type of rural program he is planning for the North Arkansas Conference. He should have and we are sure that he will receive the full cooperation of all concerned in the promoting of this vital program.

## The Shortage May Be Relieved

IN an Annual Conference session there are always several interesting matters brought to light which have significance for the present and the future. During the presentation of the North Arkansas Conference Board of Ministerial Training report it was revealed that that Conference now has ninety-eight men either in college or seminary studying for the ministry. Not all of these men are members of the conference but all have announced their intention of spending their lives in the ministry. Twenty-nine of this number are members of the conference and were "left without appointment to attend school." Several men from the North Arkansas Conference are now in a seminary who are not members of the Conference. Those doing undergraduate work are enrolled at Hendrix and other schools in the state, many of them serving as student pastors. For a Conference that has a total of two hundred forty (240) pastoral charges to have ninety-eight (98) men in preparation for future work as ministers is an indication that whatever ministerial shortage there may be today will be somewhat relieved in the not too distant future.

It is true that God has called these men into the ministry of The Methodist Church. It is also true that the proper kind of encouragement has been given them by pastors, District Superintendents, understanding laymen, teachers, professors, those in connectional appointments, and those charged with the responsibility of guiding

(Continued on page 4)

# Progress And Possibilities On Mt. Sequoyah

By E. H. HOOK, Superintendent

THE pastors in a regular monthly meeting voluntarily and enthusiastically accepted the responsibility of beautifying and modernizing cottage number 2

gave us shrubbery and set it out around the building. Floyd C. Miles of Eureka Springs gave a beautiful sign with "Fayetteville District Cottage" printed on it. Several laymen

that many friends throughout the South Central Jurisdiction will be happy to help modernize and beautify the cottages on the ground.

It is the opinion of the management that all cottages should be modernized at the earliest date time and finances will permit. Twenty cottages are in need of repairs to make them modern at a cost of \$1000.00. We have a reroofing problem which offers the friends of Mt. Sequoyah an opportunity to help. Twenty cottages need roofs at a cost of \$100.00 each. The Men's and Women's Lodge and the Old Auditorium should be reroofed at a cost of \$600.00 each. The cafeteria needs a new roof at a cost of \$1000.00. We need enough new cottages to take care of 200 more guests. These cot-

friends in Fayetteville gave us paint for the cottages. J. M. Wilson of Floydada, Texas, gave the assembly 30 gallons of paint. More than 300 gallons of paint have been used since October 1. Some conference or state in this Jurisdiction would make a wonderful contribution to the children of this Jurisdiction if they would build a Children's building and equip it. This would offer a real opportunity to the teachers and officers of the Children's Division to receive real demonstrations by competent leaders on how to conduct the work of the Children's Division in the Methodist Church.

The management would gladly cooperate with any individual, church, district, conference or any other group in accepting any project



FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT COTTAGE

on Mt. Sequoyah as a district project. The churches throughout the district raised more than \$1100.00 for materials and the pastors did the work.

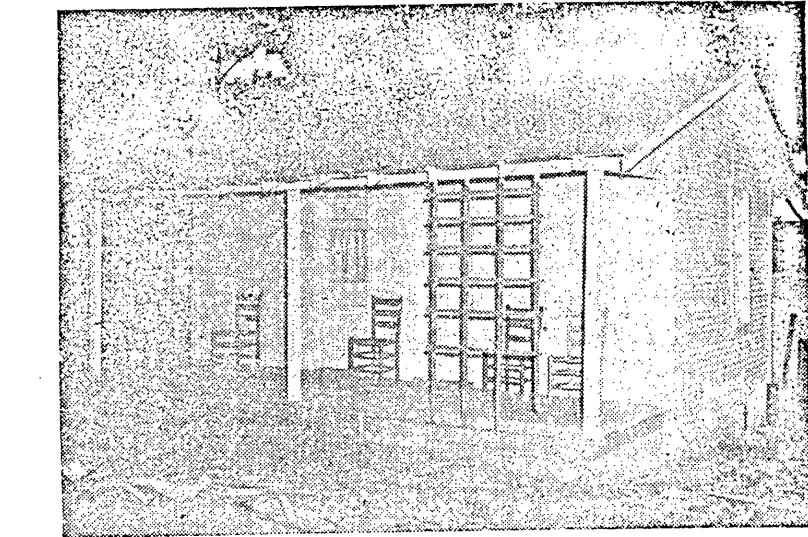
Rev. Alf A. Eason of Bentonville was elected chairman, Rev. Harold D. Womack of Prairie Grove was elected secretary-treasurer and Rev. E. G. Kaetzell was elected general supervisor. Groups of pastors throughout the district came from day to day until the work was completed. Select oak flooring, the best on the market, was used throughout the four-room building. Celotex was used for all the ceiling and celotex plank was used for the walls. The building was re-wired and wall switches placed in every room. A modern bath with shower, commode and lavatory was installed in one end of the hallway, making the bathroom accessible for all guests direct from their room. The building was re-roofed and painted. The Benton County Nursery of Rogers

throughout the district came and worked several days. This is one of the most beautiful cottages on the Mountain.

Mrs. Johnnie McClure, Conference President of W. S. C. S. in North Arkansas Conference, paid for the material for modernizing and beautifying cottage 16. It was ceiled with beautiful knotty pine throughout. A bathroom was built and modern bath fixtures were installed. The cottage was painted on the outside and two coats of varnish on the inside. The floors are covered with inlaid linoleum. This is also one of the most beautiful cottages on the mountain.

T. L. Hunt of Fort Smith gave the Assembly a new floor sander at a cost of \$385.00. This has been and will continue to be used to make beautiful and comfortable the rooms of the cottages throughout the Assembly grounds.

The management feels quite sure



JOHNNIE McCLURE COTTAGE

tages would cost from \$7000.00 to \$10,000.00. Some friend of this Jurisdiction would make a fine contribution to Methodism of this section if they would erect and equip a clinic at a cost of \$10,000.00. This would make a beautiful memorial to some loved one. Many

that would be helpful to our program.

Mrs. Hook and I extend a most cordial invitation to our friends throughout the Jurisdiction to come to Mt. Sequoyah. We believe you will be delighted with the progress being made.

## INDIVIDUAL REPORTS OF PASTORS— NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

**WALNUT RIDGE:** Oscar J. Evanson, pastor. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$50.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$800.00. Raised on building fund \$66,000.00. Increase of 344 in Church School enrollment and 110 in Church School attendance.

**MANSFIELD:** J. M. Harrison, pastor. Members received by transfer 10, and on profession of faith 15. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised for Advance Special \$154.00. Paid for improvements on church \$310.00.

**GODDARD MEMORIAL, FT. SMITH:** Robert E. L. Bearden, pastor. Members received by transfer 66, and on profession of faith 36. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$885.00 for Advance Special. New parsonage valued at \$25,000.00.

**MARMADUKE:** Fern Cook, pastor. Members received by transfer 8, and on profession of faith 6. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge raised \$20.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$125.00 and on parsonage \$200.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**McRAE:** Gerald Hammett, pastor. Members received by transfer 3, and on profession of faith 18. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$75.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on parsonage \$8,000.00. A 15 per cent increase in Church School enrollment.

**CABOT:** C. W. Good, pastor. Members received by transfer 12, and on profession of faith 3. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$250.00 for Advance Specials. Paid for improvements on church \$1,500.00. Raised on debt retirement \$1,025.00. A 5 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**BERRYVILLE:** Alvin Murray, pastor. Members received by transfer 14, and on profession of faith 42. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge raised \$190.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$200.00 and on parsonage \$100.00. A 40 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 20 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**FIRST CHURCH, NORTH LITTLE ROCK:** James W. Workman, pastor. Members received by transfer 85, and on profession of faith 41. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Amount raised for Advance Special \$1,333.00. Building new church. Raised on building fund \$150,388.00.

**MARION:** Members received by transfer 7, and on profession of faith 8. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$425.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$350.00 and on parsonage \$18,500.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**MARIANNA:** S. G. Watson, pastor. Members received by transfer 23, and on profession of faith 27. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$600.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$2,160.00 and on parsonage \$125.00. A 5 per cent increase in attendance. Baptized 22 infants.

**FIRST CHURCH, WALDRON:** Elmo Thomson, pastor. Members received by transfer 22, and on profession of faith 28. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge raised for Advance Special \$165.00. Paid for improvements on church \$4,000.00 and on parsonage \$4,228. An increase of 231 in Church School enrollment and an increase of 101 in Church School attendance.

**DESHA:** M. J. Pollard, pastor. Members received by transfer 5, and on profession of faith 25. Salaries 95 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid \$45.00 for Advance Special. Paid \$4,000.00 on parsonage. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment.

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# Program For Town And Country Commission

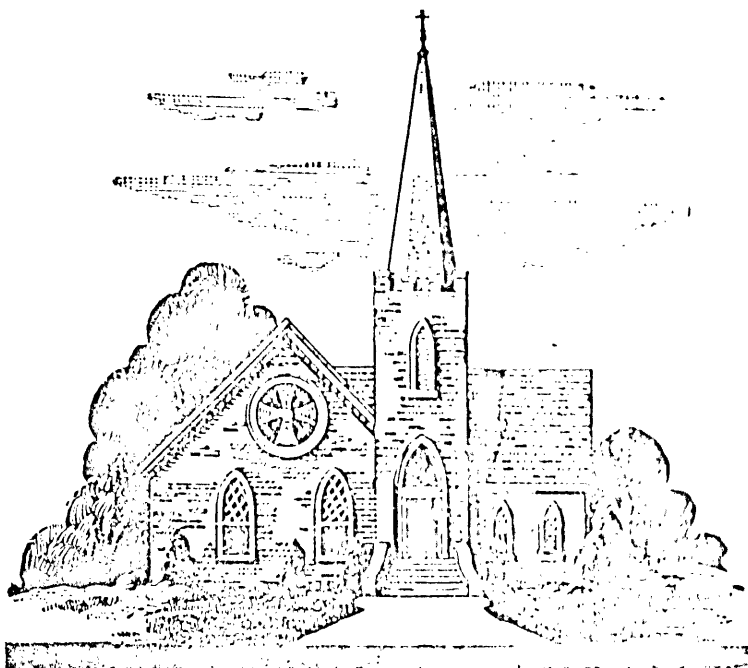
By J. ALBERT GATLIN

**I**T will be our purpose to promote Station-Circuit relations and efforts commonly known as the Larger Parish, Group Ministry, or Cooperative Program. It is my hope that we can have a large number of these. That means the building up of these programs where they are already in progress. There are a number of such splendid projects over the conference. Since Station churches in these areas are manned by men who should be able to give leadership and since each Circuit will have a man capable of carrying out his part of the work in cooperation with the Station Pastor, it is my feeling that I should give assistance in these projects in advisory manner with any specific help requested at points in operation or new projects requested. In this way there will not be a waste of money and manpower in the matter of the Executive Secretary.

I am asking as a more definite and specific task the matter of direct supervision of at least eight circuits over the conference. I am asking each District Superintendent to assign me one charge. That will be eight charges with from say twenty to thirty churches. I have always found that to eat a watermelon one must first cut it and get it down to "eatable portions." Certainly if with eight District Superintendents, more than two hundred pastors, and all other leaders, there is still more help needed, it would be the height of folly for one man to try to get

hold of the whole conference at one bite. It will be my hope to be given pastors and circuits that will be willing to cooperate. These would

it the official responsibility of the Town and Country Commissioners. I will make my rounds on the stated charge just as the parson of District



be at such points that cannot be easily served by a Station Church and should not be a Conference or General Board project. I want to be officially assigned by the Bishop and the Cabinet to these charges.

We will call it "The Conference Larger Parish or Cooperative Parish." In that way we will make

Superintendent. I will survey the needs of each church on the charge and make preparation to meet those needs. We will give the year to meet those needs. We will give the year to direct service on the Conference Parish. It will be our own aim to lift the general tone of the charge that we may take on another

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the various departments of the Government of the State of New York, for the year 1900:

[illegible]

2. We will continue to lay out the Act in a way that is not intended to be a "bait and switch" that lures you into a contract that better suits our interests than yours.

3. We will have to go through a definite process of adaptation through the help of the Ministry of Education.

4. We will have a list of examples that we will have to study.

of the world's food supply. The Mother's Union

6. We will continue to monitor the progress of the project and report on the results of the study.

[illegible]

# SPECIAL APPEAL, URGENT

# PETITION CAMPAIGN CLOSING!

## Deadline Will Soon Be Here!

***Your Help Needed Now-- Right Now!***

LET'S BE KEENLY ALERT TO OUR OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY!  
Please be "ON FIRE" for this cause!

GET EVERY POSSIBLE SIGNATURE!

**MANY SIGNATURES STILL NEEDED!**

Christians—Pastors and ALL—Please let this VITAL Matter GRIP YOUR MIND AND YOUR HEART! Think. Pray. Act. Time is short! Individuals and Committees, please rush Petitions as fast as they are completed. They must be checked and recorded in this office, then filed with Secretary of State. They should be mailed by June 30.

SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION:

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**Gal. 6:9**

# ARKANSAS UNITED DRYS

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Clyde C. Coulter, Executive Director

**Nelson F. Tull, Chairman**



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## INDIVIDUAL REPORTS OF PASTORS— NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

**NEWARK:** Kenneth Renfrow, pastor. Members received by transfer 1. Charge raised \$15.00 for Advance Special. A 45 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. All claims paid.

**LAKE CITY:** B. W. Stallcup, pastor. Members received by transfer 5. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid for improvements on church \$1,000.00 and on parsonage \$300.00. A 20 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. Church has greater interest in personal evangelism.

**DOVER:** Elvis Wright, pastor. Members received by transfer 8, and on profession of faith 12. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid for improvements on parsonage \$500.00. A 5 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 15 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**GENTRY:** Brady Cook, pastor. Members received by transfer 10, and on profession of faith 11. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Raised \$200.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on parsonage \$200.00. Raised on debt retirement \$600.00. A 6 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**POTTSVILLE:** Frank Shell, pastor. Members received by transfer 8, and on profession of faith 10. Salaries 94 per cent and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$25.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$50.00 and on parsonage \$200.00.

**WILSON:** H. Lynn Wade, pastor. Members received by transfer 14, and on profession of faith 9. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid for improvements on church \$100.00. Raised on debt retirement \$3,000.00. A 25 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 50 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**ROSEBUD:** Henry Carpenter, pastor. Members received by transfer 12, and on profession of faith 6. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Two churches on charge paid increased Askings in full. Raised for Advance Special \$10.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment.

**MELBOURNE:** Y. D. Whitehurst, pastor. Members received by transfer 7, and on profession of faith 52. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid for improvements on church \$175.00 and on parsonage \$300.00.

**DELL:** Eugene H. Hall, pastor. Members received by transfer 28, and on profession of faith 23. Salaries and World Service 100 per

## NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

**REV. J. M. HUGHES** writes that his address is now Newark, Arkansas.

**REV. BRADY COOK**, pastor at the Gentry Methodist Church, preached the commencement sermon for the seniors of the Gentry High School on May 31.

**THE Young Adult Fellowships** of Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock, First Church, Gardner Memorial, Levy, Sylvan Hills and Cato will have a swimming party and picnic at Aldersgate on Saturday, July 1, at 6:30 p. m.

**BORN** to Rev. and Mrs. Robert McCammon of Little Rock on Monday, June 26, at St. Vincent's Infirmary a daughter, Mary Susan. Brother McCammon is assistant pastor at Asbury Methodist Church.

**BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN** announces the transfer of Rev. Virgil Hanks, pastor at Beebe, to the North Texas Conference with appointment to Rankin Chapel in West Dallas and the appointment of Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Jr., of St. John's-New Hope, Van Buren, to Beebe. Mrs. Hanks will be associated with the Rankin Community Center. Their new address is 3000 Crossman, Dallas 8, Texas.

**REV. AND MRS. J. H. HOLT** and children were honorees at a party given by the Alma Methodist Church on Tuesday evening, June 20. They were presented with a number of beautiful gifts and refreshments were served. Brother Holt and family left for Paragould Thursday where he will serve Griffin Memorial Church.

cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised for Advance Special \$47.18. Paid for improvements on church \$55,000.00 and on parsonage \$5,000.00. Raised on building fund \$55,000.00. A 31 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 36 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**LEVY:** Raymond A. Dorman, pastor. Members received by transfer 31, and on profession of faith 26. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid for improvements on church \$2,100.00 and on parsonage \$100.00. Raised on debt retirement \$2,050.00.

**WESLEY MEMORIAL, CONWAY:** A. H. DuLaney, pastor. Members received by transfer 27, and on profession of faith 14. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised for Advance Special \$150.00. Paid for improvements on church \$300.00. Raised on debt retirement \$675.00. A 15 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and attendance. Organized Methodist Men and Boy Scout troupe. Wesley Memorial was organized less than three years ago with 39 members in the Ellen Smith school house. The membership is now 160 after loss by death and transfer of 20. Congregation comfortably housed in \$25,000.00 building with only \$3,000.00 indebtedness. Full program of Methodism has been carried on.

**MIDLAND HEIGHTS, FT. SMITH:** W. A. Downum, pastor. Members received by transfer 40, and on profession of faith 45. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised for Advance Special \$534.00. Paid for improvements on church \$5,983.00 and on parsonage \$266.00. Raised on building fund \$5,983.00. A 4 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 3 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Just completed the first unit of an educational building that will accommodate between 500 and 600 at Sunday School. Built without any debt. Hope to build the other unit within next two or three years. When finished will have an educational plant worth around \$100,000.00 which will have been constructed for much less because of careful planning and buying of materials.

### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

According to a long established custom we will have no paper next week which will be the week of July 4. The next paper to come from the press will be the issue of July 13. In order that our readers may have the Sunday School lesson for the Sundays of July 9 and 16 we are running two lessons in this issue, beginning on page 15.

**AT** noon on Sunday, May 28, an unusual christening ceremony took place at the home of Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Freeman, near Quitman. Brother Freeman baptized his two little great-grandsons, Allen Layfield Bates, of Little Rock, and James Michael Charles of Ft. Smith. The little boys' great-great-grandmother assisted with the service. Brother Freeman was the pastor at Hardy until this past March when he had to retire because of ill health.

**WORLD** peace and security can best be nurtured in the religious family, President Harry Truman wrote in a letter endorsing the eighth annual interfaith observance of National Family Week, which was observed May 7-14. The letter was addressed to Rev. Richard E. Lentz, International Council of Religious Education; Rev. Edgar Schmiedler, O.S.B., National Catholic Welfare Conference; and Rabbi Hirsch E. L. Freund, Synagogue Council of America.

**A** recent conference of Protestant missionary leaders of 27 boards and agencies related to Christian work in China, held at Winona Lake, Indiana, brought to light that there are now more than 2,000 Protestant missionaries still in China "behind the bamboo curtain," and that about 1,000 of these are Americans. It revealed also that these missionaries are going to stay in China, so long as the communist government permits them, and that they will remain even when consular officials are withdrawn.

**THE** Nell Newbern Tanner Memorial Scholarship to Hendrix College, which was awarded this year for the first time, was given by S. E. Tanner of Little Rock in memory of his wife who recently passed away. The announcement of the awarding of the scholarship which went to Patricia Couch was made at the commencement of the Little Rock High School. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner were members of First Church, Little Rock, for thirty-three years. Mr. Tanner, retired head of the Science Department in the Little Rock High School, taught there for thirty-two years. The scholarship was given in the name of the Galloway Club of which Mrs. Tanner was an active member.

### THE SHORTAGE MAY BE RELIEVED (Continued from page 1)

them step by step in becoming full-fledged ministers; this encouragement is oftentimes the difference between accepting or rejecting the call of God to enter the ministry.

However, the day of a shortage of ministers is still with us. More than one-third of the appointment of the North Arkansas Conference are being filled by Accepted Supply Pastors. We have nothing but words of highest praise and commendation for the work and ministry of these brethren, the Accepted Supply Pastors, in the appointments they are serving. Indeed, it is quite likely that there are many appointments which for years to come will be filled each year from the ranks of Accepted Supply Pastors. However as this larger number of men now in training finish their academic preparation a percentage of the appointments will be filled by members of the Conference.

We need the bifocals of faith. We need both the near and far view if we are to see clearly the task for our time.—Bishop Richard C. Raines.

# INDIVIDUAL REPORTS OF PASTORS— NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 2)

and a 20 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**JACKSONVILLE:** H. A. Stroup, pastor. Members received by transfer 38, and on profession of faith 9. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$75.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$3,200.00. Raised on building fund \$3,200.00. Educational building under construction.

**PLAINVIEW:** A. L. Riggs, pastor. Members received by transfer 14, and on profession of faith 13. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Raised for Advance Special \$100.00. Paid for improvements on church \$225.00 and on parsonage \$275.00. A 16 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 28 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**MADISON COUNTY, NO. 2:** E. J. Reaves, pastor. Members received by transfer 3, and on profession of faith 8. Salaries 95 per cent and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid for improvements on church \$700.00. Raised on building fund \$1,700.00. Two church buildings dedicated. Bought modern parsonage at St. Paul.

**HUNTINGTON:** C. J. Wade, pastor. Members received by transfer 7, and on profession of faith 8. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid for repairs on church \$288.00. Paid for equipment on church \$214.00. A recreational park has been secured and equipped at a cost of \$1,250.00. Sunday School enrollment and attendance have increased.

**LEACHVILLE:** Carl C. Burton, pastor. Members received by transfer 8, and on profession of faith 5. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised for Advance Special \$50.00. Paid for improvements on church \$800.00 and on parsonage \$100.00. Raised on debt retirement \$635.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. Installed new organ.

**MASSARD:** Vann Hooker, pastor. Members received by transfer 7, and on profession of faith 17. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$105.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$1,700.00 and on parsonage \$300.00. Increase of 174 in Church School enrollment and 77 in Church School attendance.

**BETHEL-CATO:** Aubra O. Hays, pastor. Members received by transfer 6, and on profession of faith 1. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid \$40.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$300.00 and on parsonage \$600.00. A 2 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 10 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**WASHINGTON AVENUE, NORTH LITTLE ROCK:** I. L. Claud, pastor. Members received by transfer 19, and on profession of faith 14. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised for Advance Special \$600.00. Paid for improvements on church and parsonage \$750.00. Raised on debt retirement \$1,000.00. \$12,000.00 raised for all purposes.

**WHEATLEY:** Francis M. Stage, pastor. Members received by transfer 6, and on profes-

sion of faith 4. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$200.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$200.00 and on parsonage \$50.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 15 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**NETTLETON-BAY:** Theron McKisson, pastor. Salaries 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid for improvements on church \$15.00 and on parsonage \$350.00. A 20 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. Nettleton and Bay churches both installed electric organs this year and paid more than 75 per cent of cost. This was sponsored by the young people of these congregations.

**COLT:** L. L. Langston, pastor. Members received by transfer 13, and on profession of faith 14. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Raised \$75.00 for Advance Special. Paid \$350.00 for improvements on church. Raised \$500.00 on building fund. A 15 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 5 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Plans are made for a new parsonage.

**JOINER:** Ray L. McLester, pastor. Members received by transfer 26, and on profession of faith 17. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge raised for Advance Special \$128.00. Paid for improvements on church \$2,700.00 and on parsonage \$100.00. A 29 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 40 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Bought new pews.

**HOXIE:** J. W. Moore, pastor. Members received by transfer 14, and on profession of faith 4. Salaries 100 per cent; World Service \$313.00. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$100.00 for Advance Special. A 3 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. An organ installed at a cost of \$1,322.00 for which cash was paid. Raised for all causes \$5,300.00.

**WEINER:** Porter Weaver, pastor. Members received by transfer 29, and on profession of faith 38. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$125.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$5,404.00 and on parsonage \$100.00. A 4 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 6 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Organized one W. S. C. S. and one Methodist Men's Club.

**FIRST CHURCH, PIGGOTT:** W. O. Scroggin, Jr., pastor. Members received by transfer 20, and on profession of faith 18. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Paid for Advance Special \$400.00. Paid for improvements on church \$500.00 and on parsonage \$1,000.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 30 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**FISHER STREET, JONESBORO:** Thurston Masters, pastor. Members received by transfer 12, and on profession of faith 15. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$100.00 for Advance Special. Raised \$1,310.00 on debt retirement and \$3,600.00 on building fund. A 13 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 10 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**ELAINE:** Glenn Bruner, pastor. Members received by transfer 10, and on profession of faith 6. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent.

Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$280.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$400.00 and on parsonage \$390.00. Raised on building fund \$8,000.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School attendance. New church completed at Mellwood. Plans made for improvements at Elaine Church.

**FIFTH STREET, FT. SMITH:** Bates Sturdy, pastor. Members received by transfer 11, and on profession of faith 28. Salaries 100 per cent and World Service 300 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised \$25.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$250.00. Raised on debt retirement \$400.00. A 2 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. Pastor's work at Wildcat Mountain Sanatorium continues weekly.

**HUNTINGTON AVENUE, JONESBORO:** Jefferson Sherman, pastor. Members received by transfer 30, and on profession of faith 15. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised for Advance Special \$250.00. Paid for improvements on church \$586.00 and on parsonage \$200.00. Raised on building fund \$7,000.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment. Planning a new educational building.

**AMITY CIRCUIT:** C. V. Mashburn, pastor. Members received by transfer 7, and on profession of faith 7. Salaries 100 per cent and World Service 96 per cent. Charge raised \$31.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$316.00 and on parsonage \$242.00. Raised on debt retirement \$216.00. A 21 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 20 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Amity W. S. C. S. awarded one \$25.00 life membership.

**NEWPORT FIRST CHURCH:** Guy C. Ames, pastor. Members received by transfer 30, and on profession of faith 40. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Charge raised \$600.00 for Advance Special. Paid for improvements on church \$26,000.00. Raised on debt retirement \$6,000.00. Raised on building fund \$12,000.00. A 10 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and a 15 per cent increase in Church School attendance.

**TURRELL-GILMORE:** Members received by transfer 11, and on profession of faith 14. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised for Advance Special \$165.00. Paid for improvements on church \$1,036.00. Raised on debt retirement \$335.00. A 3 per cent increase in Church School enrollment and an 8 per cent increase in Church School attendance. Turrell Church is supporting two boys in the Mrs. E. Stanley Jones School for Boys in India. Gilmore is supporting one boy in this school and is raising money for another boy in this school.

**MOOREFIELD-ASBURY:** M. L. Kaylor, pastor. Members received by transfer 20, and on profession of faith 6. Salaries and World Service 100 per cent. Charge paid increased Askings on World Service. Raised for Advance Special \$185.00. Paid for improvements on church \$200.00. Raised on debt retirement \$500.00. Raised on building fund \$400.00. Asbury Church was organized September 1, 1947, with 28 members, now has 73 members with a \$15,000.00 building almost complete and \$1,000.00 in cash and pledges which will practically complete the building.

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# The New Church At Schugtoun



THE history of the Schugtoun church is not very long because it is a young church.

Many years ago there was a church in that community located on the corner of the Phelps land, just in front of what is now known as the Andy Schug home.

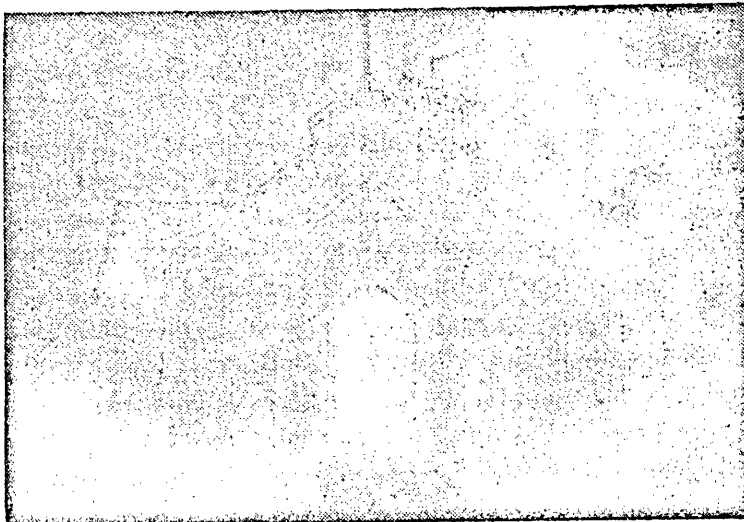
This church ceased active service more than twenty-five years ago and there was no church or Sunday school to take its place. This condition remained for many years, and there were no church services or Sunday School.

In 1929, Miss Elsie Calvert, a young teacher, came to the Schugtoun community to teach school. Two years later she married John Schug. The young Mrs. Schug was not content to live in a community where there was no church or Sunday School. She secured permission from the schoolboard to have a Sunday School in the schoolhouse. John Trantham came and assisted in organizing a Sunday School in 1933 and was elected the first superintendent and Mrs. Elsie Schug was elected assistant superintendent.

Ministers from different denominations were invited to preach at various times. The Presbyterians sent ministers regularly and also the Baptists.

Dr. E. W. Potter, district superintendent of the Jonesboro District, of the Methodist Church became interested in the community and sent Rev. W. J. LeRoy to hold a revival meeting. At the close of the revival, a church was organized on July 25, 1933, with the following charter members: George Cook, Mildred Cook, Elsie Schug, Tommy Higgins, Chatty Higgins, Mrs. Viola Higgins, Mrs. Vina McDaniel, Luther Lawrence, Rosa Lawrence, Hassie Wineland, Edith Cox and Betty Dowell.

In November 1933, the Conference



New Methodist Church, Schugtoun, Paragould District

sent the Rev. Glen Bruner, as the first pastor who served one year, which greatly strengthened the church. The Rev. J. H. Holt then served two years and in the following order others came: Rev. Lindley Vowell, one year; Rev. Robert Montgomery, two years; Rev. Robert Howerton, Jr., two years; Rev. B. W. Stallcup, two years; Rev. G. B. Ames, two months, and Rev. J. C. Oliver, six months, and last June, Rev. Layman Bounds arrived and is with the church at the present time.

In 1937, the Schugtoun School was consolidated with the Dixie School. This left a two-room building which was donated to the church by Willey Norton and the church then bought a half acre of ground from him. The school building was then turned around and moved onto the plot which was purchased. This move required a great deal of labor, and since there was no money in the church treasury the labor had to be donated.

Someone had to oversee the work and this job fell jointly to Mrs. Elsie Schug and Mrs. Edith Adams. They worked untiringly for many days, not hesitating to work with hammer or saw.

The women of the community served lunch for the men who gave their time and labor turning the school building into a church. In time a nice little church was ready for use.

This modest little building served the community for a time, but the steady growth of the church made it necessary to build a new church more suited to a growing community. A tent was borrowed from the District Superintendent of the Methodist Church at Paragould, Rev. Lynn Wade, and the little building that had served so well was torn down.

Meetings were held in the tent until the new building was constructed. Mrs. John Schug again took the burden of supervision until at

last an \$8,000 church was ready to be dedicated to God.

Those who have been active in this work wish to thank all who have aided, for without them this work could not have been accomplished. Also tribute is paid to the many friends in Paragould and the surrounding county for all that has been contributed to this church.

In 1939 George W. Cook was made superintendent of the Sunday School and has served well in that capacity to this time. His work and that of his faithful wife have been an inspiration to the community.

The membership which is growing steadily, numbers 43 and the total Sunday School enrollment is 83.

Following are the present officers of the church: Trustees, Mrs. Rosa Lawrence, John Schug, George Cook; Stewards: Mrs. Jack Adams, Mrs. John Schug, Miss Rachel Simpson, Tommy Higgins, Poley Schug and Albert Wineland. Other officers are as follows: Mr. Cook, Sunday School superintendent; Mr. Wineland, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Jack Adams, secretary of the Sunday School; Mrs. John Schug, secretary of the church; Mrs. George Cook, adult teacher; Mrs. John Schug, young adult teacher; Mrs. Gus Robinson, Intermediate teacher; Mrs. Earl Beaton, superintendent of the Children's Division; Mrs. Poley Schug, Junior teacher; Mrs. Charles Cook, Primary teacher.

The WSCS was organized two years ago with 14 members. It has recently become the first 100% society in the Paragould District. Mrs. Jessie Beaton is the president.

The dedication services on April 30, represented an important day to the members of this little church. It marked the culmination of many years of effort to establish solidly a community church at Schugtoun.—Reporter.

## MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT NUMBER TWO

The following has been accomplished in south Madison County in the last three and one-half years, under the faithful leadership and hard work of our minister, Rev. E. J. Reaves. We are all very grateful to Bro. Reaves and Mrs. Reaves, also to Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Hook for the assistance and inspiration they have given us in so many ways.

When Bro. Reaves started services in south Madison County there had not been an active Methodist Church here in about fifty years. Now, four churches have been organized and all have good memberships and all have church schools. Three of these churches, St. Paul, Brannan, and

Nichols have been remodeled and are very nice buildings. The Delaney church has been newly built. It has a good sized, well finished auditorium and a basement which is now being used as a recreation room for the young people.

The church building at Delaney was made possible through the interest taken here by Rev. E. H. Hook, our district superintendent, and Bro. Reaves, as they secured a grant from the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church, and through the generous contributions of our many friends here in south Madison County, and also the generosity of many good friends in Fayetteville. Bro. Hook and Bro. Reaves also made possible the purchase of a parsonage at St.

## VACATION SCHOOL AT SYLVAN HILLS

From May 29 to June 9, our church held a very successful Vacation Church School for its youngsters. The staff of 10 teachers was consist-

Paul, which is now occupied by our minister, Rev. J. H. Hensley and family.

We are very thankful that all these churches are free from debt.

We are all very sorry that we will not have Bro. Reaves and Bro. Hook as our minister and district superintendent any longer as they will serve in other positions. We wish them the best of God's blessings in whatever they may undertake.—G. H. Spencer.

tently faithful, and out of the 45 enrolled, 33 received certificates.

There were four classes of youngsters, from Beginners to Intermediates, and 15 of the Beginners made up the largest group receiving certificates.

In the workshops, plaques for the home were made, scrapbooks concerning Jesus were undertaken and finished, and picture scenes from the life of Jesus were portrayed in sand-boxes.

All told, this has been our most successful Vacation School since we have been organized as a church.—William M. Wilder.

Piety: Being nice to everybody from God down.—Hugh Francis Blunt, Catholic Digest.

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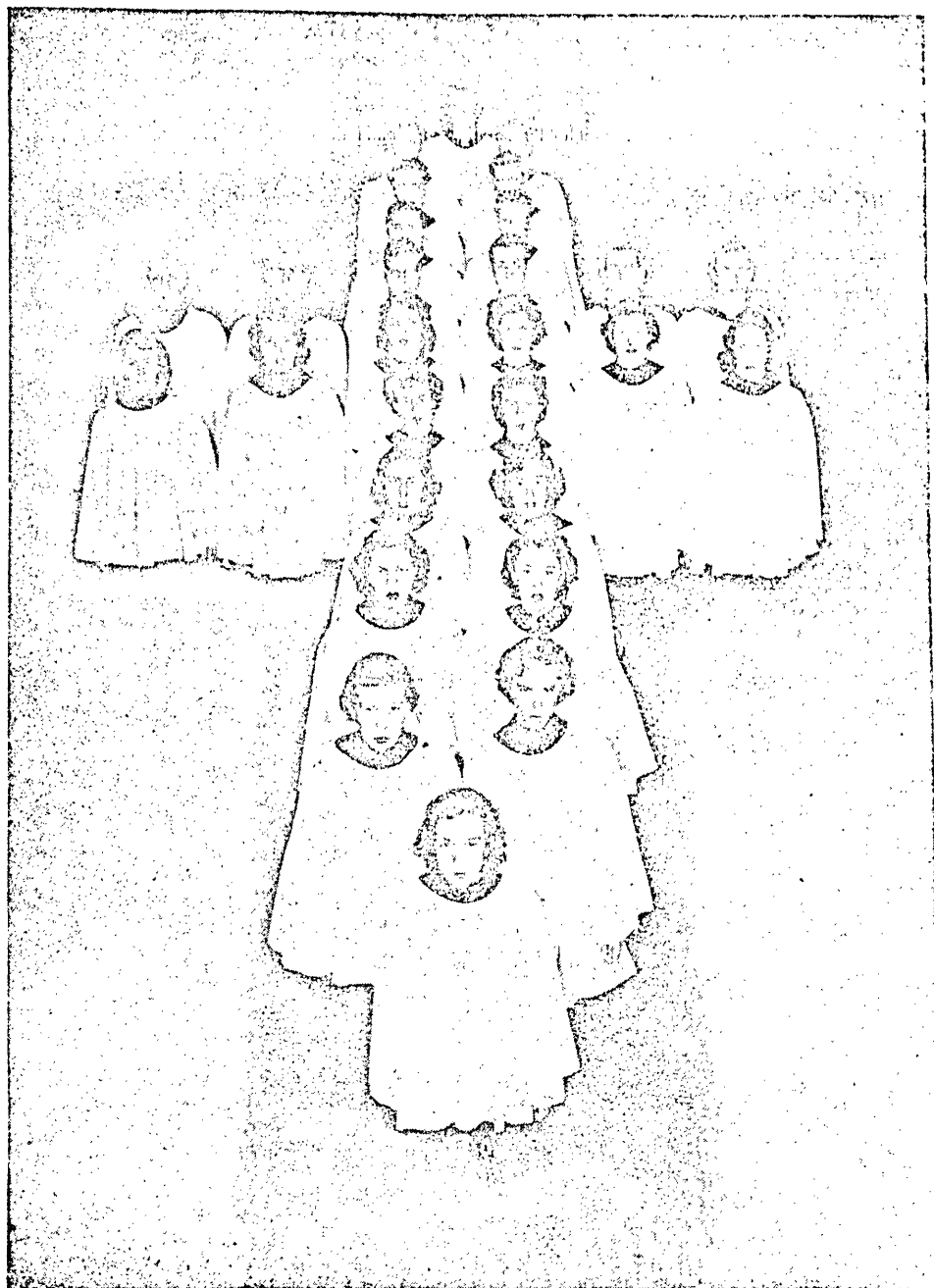
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The Chapel Choir At Hendrix College

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# PASTORS' SCHOOL AT

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#### THE MODERN MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS

—Dr. Walter Williams

Text—Knudsen: The Prophetic Movement in Israel or, Hyatt: Prophetic Religion

#### THE MEANING OF METHODISM—Dr. W. W. Sweet

Text—Kern: Methodism Has a Message

#### THE PASTOR AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—

Dr. Walter Towner

Text—Harner: The Educational Work of the Church

#### MISSIONS IN INDIA—Dr. Eddy Asirvatham and Bishop Paul E. Martin

Text—Bryce: India at the Threshold, and other selected materials.



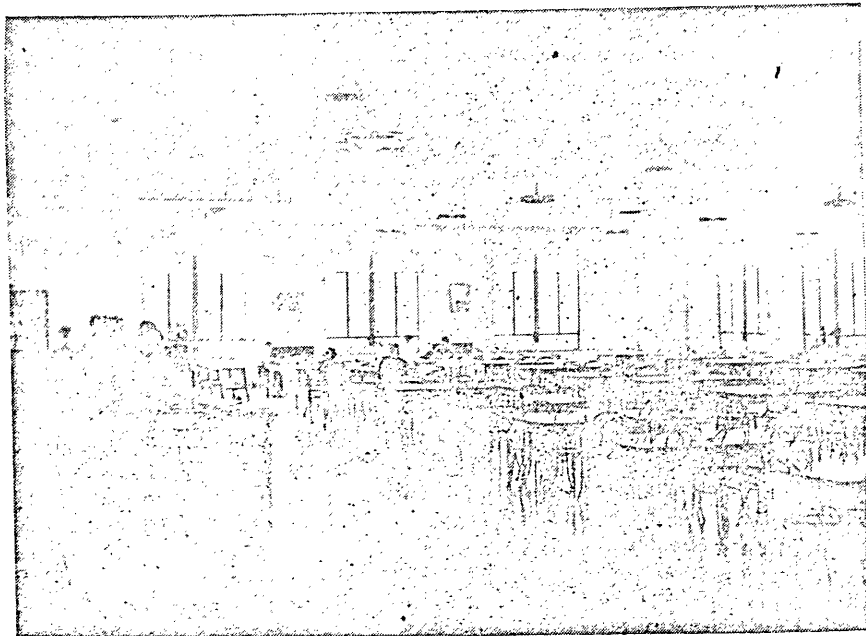
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# HENDRIX COLLEGE

## JULY 3 THROUGH JULY 7

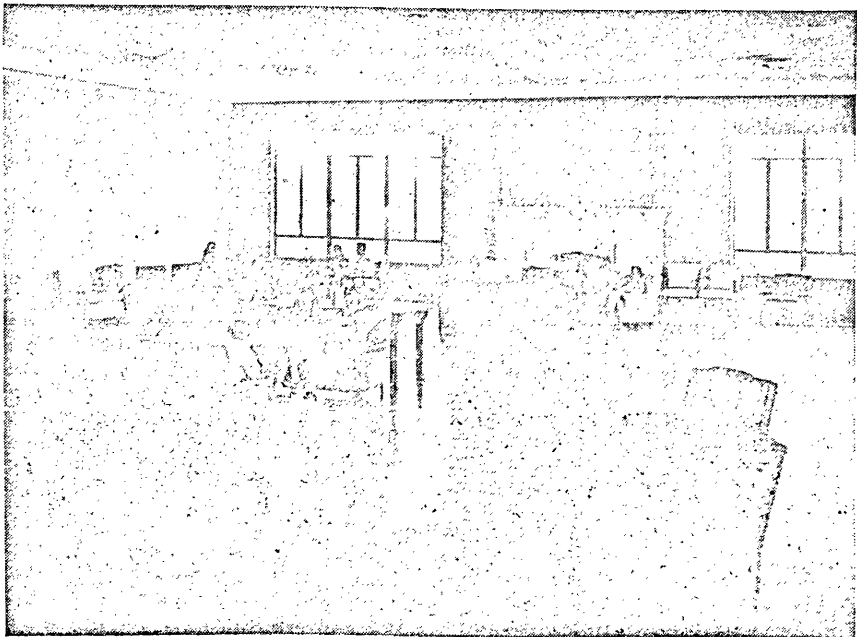


STUDENT CENTER

PEAKER

Paul Hardin, Jr., Pastor of Church Birmingham, will be the main speaker for the Arkansas School, July 3-7. His address will be at 9:45 on Tuesday morning, July 4th. He will speak daily, bringing his message on Friday morning, the 7th.

Hardin is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Wake Forest University. He received a B. D. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has been honored by two colleges in his spring, one his Alma Mater and the other Birmingham University, both conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.



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Hicks: The Books of History (Second)  
Chanter: The Prophets (Third)  
Leslie: Poetry and Wisdom (Fourth)
2. The Pastor and Christian Education  
Instructor: Dr. Walter Towner  
*Undergraduate Credit:*  
Brewer: The Church at the Cross Roads (Second)  
McKibben: Christian Education Through the Church (Third)  
Lindhorst: The Minister Teaches Religion (Fourth)
3. The Meaning of Methodism  
Instructor: Dr. W. W. Sweet  
*Undergraduate Credit:*  
Kern: Methodism Has a Message (License)  
Luccock, Hutchinson, Goodloe: The Story of Methodism (Second)  
Welch: Selections from the Writings of John Wesley (Third)  
McConnell: John Wesley (Fourth)
4. Missions in India  
Instructors: Dr. Asirvatham and Bishop Martin.  
*Undergraduate Credit:*  
Van Dusen: World Christianity (Fourth)

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Mrs. W. F. Bates

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contributing Editor:  
Ira A. Brumley

## CHILDREN'S WORKERS' NEWS

By Mrs. W. F. Bates

### Children's Workers Planning Conference

The Planning Conference for Children's Work in the Little Rock Conference will be held at Hendrix College, Conway, July 11-12, just preceding the annual state-wide Children's Workers Conference. All District Secretaries of Children's Work of the Woman's Society, and District Directors of Children's Work of the Board of Education, are expected to attend. Certain other resource persons will participate in the planning. Mrs. Neill Hart, Conference Secretary of Children's Work, and Mrs. W. F. Bates, Conference Director of Children's Work, will be in charge.

### Mena Methodist Vacation Church School Closes

The Vacation Church School of Mena closed June 3rd with an exhibit open to the public, and a picnic. The total enrollment was 40. Mrs. Vernon Rodgers, director of the school, was assisted by Mrs. Titus Manasco, Mrs. Jonah Gass, Mrs. Ralph Edwards and Frances Manasco as Junior workers. Primary workers were Mrs. Darrel Nations, Mrs. Roy Dunfee, Mrs. Edna Farmer, and Modyne Farmer. Kindergarten workers were Mrs. J. G. Bell, Mrs. Whit Spires and Miss Patsy Shirley. Mrs. J. B. Jouett had charge of devotionals, and Mary Grace Hunter, Patsy Shirley, Modyne Farmer and Frances Manasco had charge of the play periods.

### Hamburg Vacation Church School

There were 44 boys and girls enrolled in the Vacation Church School. Mrs. Maude Nolley was in charge. The Juniors were asked to write why they would follow Jesus, and the following poem was written by one of the ten-year-old boys.

*We would follow Jesus  
In thought and word and deed.  
We would follow Jesus  
By helping those in need.  
We would follow Jesus  
Because his way was right,  
We would follow Jesus  
By praying every night.*  
—Mickey Barner

We should remember the words of that great Harvard psychologist, Wm. James: "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated."—O. C. Thomas, III, Central Magazine.

## NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

By Ira A. Brumley

### Two Important Activities

There are two important activities just ahead for the churches of the North Arkansas Conference: Arkansas Pastors' School, and State Children's Workers' Conference.

The Pastors' School is to be held Monday through Friday, July 3-7, opening with the night session on Monday, July 3. The program will close with the noon meal on Friday, July 7.

We probably have not had a stronger group of faculty members. Four excellent courses are to be offered. It is difficult for one to choose between these fine courses and instructors.

All persons should plan to arrive by middle afternoon on Monday, July 3, so as to complete registration by 5 p. m., as the evening meal will be served at 5:30 p. m.

No one can take more than one course since it is a five-day school.

Persons desiring to take one of these courses so it will apply on the Conference Course of Study should get the list of courses with the listing of books for which the various courses can be counted.

### State Children's Workers' Conference

The State Children's Workers' Conference has come to be the outstanding program in the state for workers with children in the Methodist Church. The date of this Conference is July 12-14, Wednesday afternoon through noon on Friday. Registration will be carried out between 2 and 3 p. m., July 12.

Excellent program plans have been worked out for this conference. Any worker with children will profit by being in on this program.

Local churches will find it profitable to provide the expenses of one or more workers for this special program for workers with children.

The cost of the program will be \$5.00 for room and meals. There will be no registration fee. The program is being furnished by the two conference Boards of Education.

The Conference will be held on the Hendrix College Campus.

### New Certifications

Mrs. James S. Upton has been certified for the Second Series Course on The Near East.

Rev. N. Lee Cate has been certified for the First Series Course on

### Choosing a Vocation.

#### Church Schools Make Gains

The church schools of the North Arkansas Conference showed gains in both enrollment and average attendance for the year 1949-50, as compared with 1949-49. There was a gain of 723 in enrollment and 927 in average attendance. The report showed a total enrollment of 68,898 and an average attendance of 32,534.

The enrollment goal set for the North Arkansas church school total enrollment to be reached by June 1952 is 70-101, which is only 1,203 more than we now have. This goal should be easily reached during the next year.

#### Mt. Sequoyah Leadership School

The North Arkansas Conference has a quota of thirty for the Leadership School to be held at Mt. Sequoyah, July 17-28. While this school is chiefly for district and conference leadership there are some places for local church workers.

This is perhaps the richest program ever offered at Mt. Sequoyah in a Leadership School. The North Arkansas Conference should take the largest possible advantage of this program.

Persons desiring to attend should write the Board of Education, Hendrix Station, Conway, at an early date.

#### Jurisdictional Workshop For Youth Leaders

The Jurisdictional Workshop for youth leaders is to be held at Mt. Sequoyah, August 8-18. Our Conference is to have 13 young people and three adults. These persons must be sub-district, district, or conference workers.

We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once.—Calvin Coolidge.

## FIRST CAMP AT WAYLAND SPRING CAMP

On May 29th a total of 89 campers arrived at Wayland Spring Camp for the first encampment. The group was made up of Intermediates from the Batesville District with their counsellors and teachers. Wayland Spring Camp is owned jointly by the Batesville, Jonesboro and Paragould Districts. In spite of the fact much remains to be done before the camp is entirely complete we had adequate equipment to take care of the large group attending.

Rev. Byron McSpadden of Mt. Home Parish was director of the camp. Rev. Alfred Knox was dean of boys, and Mrs. Paul McNealy was dean of girls. Girls Counsellors were, Mrs. Nels Barnett, Mrs. L. K. Wilson, Mrs. Evelyn Smith, Mrs. Peggie Ragsdale, and Mrs. Howard Archer who was also camp nurse. Serving as Counsellors and teachers were Rev. J. C. Wilcox, Rev. L. K. Wilson, J. H. Hoggard and the district superintendent, S. B. Wilford.

Work periods were observed each day which did much to get the camp in order for the future camps.—Reporter.



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# WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. SUE M. WAYLAND, Editor

## WYNNE HAS JOINT INSTALLATION SERVICE

The officers of the W. S. C. S. and Wesleyan Guilds were installed in a joint service in the church sanctuary. About 65 ladies were present.

Miss Louise Coffin played organ music while the guests arrived. Subject of the program was "Christenizing Our Homes." The group sang "Faith of Our Fathers."

Mrs. G. G. Dorris, program leader, read a poem, "Keep Sweet." Scripture reading was Psalms 127, Deuteronomy 2:1-13; Luke 2:40-55, followed by group singing of the song, "From All the Dark Places." Prayer was offered by Rev. Lloyd Conyers. "Role of the Home In the Peace Movement" was given by the leader.

Mrs. L. W. Bloxon, representing China and dressed in a Chinese costume, told of how the Chinese people were christenizing their homes.

Wearing the native costume of the people of Africa, Mrs. A. O. Chastain gave some interesting points on that country and on the work there.

Mrs. V. E. James, wearing the native costume of India, gave an impressive talk of the work in that country.

The song, "Home Sweet Home" was beautifully sung by Mrs. Darnell Hampton, accompanied at the organ by Miss Louise Coffin.

"Comments On The Christian Home Around The World" was given by the leader, Mrs. G. G. Dorris.

The program closed with the hymn, "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee."

Rev. Lloyd Conyers installed the officers for the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guilds.

The sanctuary of the church was beautifully decorated with baskets of red roses and greenery.

Following the program and the installation service the guests were invited to the church basement for a social hour.

Mrs. L. D. Adams, Mrs. Thomas Baker, Mrs. Jimmy Moore, Mrs. Gilbert Thomas, Mrs. Dave Hall and Mrs. W. W. Stacy, hostesses, served punch and cookies from a lace covered table centered with a bowl of red roses with tapers. Mrs. Jimmy Moore presided at the punch bowl while the others assisted in serving.

Several guests from Birdeye were

## WSCS SKIT "A CENTURY OF STRUGGLE"



Mrs. W. W. Gammon, secretary of the Status of Women of the W. S. C. S. of the First Methodist church, presented a skit on "A Century of Struggle," a pageant of victory at the First Methodist Church, Van Buren, Tuesday afternoon, May 2.

The skit concerned the period when women first began the struggle to gain equal rights in 1848. Characters in the skit wore dresses, shown in picture above, similar to the fashion worn by women during that period.

In the picture reading from left to right in front row are: Mrs. H. K. Horne, Mrs. Richard Tate, Mrs. W. W. Gammon, Mrs. Jewel Scott, Mrs. Oscar Bohannon, Mrs. Buck Rainwater; back row: Mrs. Charles White, Mrs. Henry Pape, Mrs. L. C. Tate, and Mrs. C. R. Brant.

## WESLEYAN GUILD ANNOUNCES TEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Mrs. Charles W. Mead, of Omaha, Neb., chairman of the standing committee of the Wesleyan Service Guild, an organization of employed women related to the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church, announces funds in hand for ten "Marion Lela Norris Scholarships" for the training of missionary personnel at Scarritt College, and another ten for similar training at the National College for Christian Workers. Miss Norris, in whose honor the scholarships have been named, was the founder of the Guild and is now its executive secretary with offices at 150 Fifth

present for the occasion.

Mrs. T. M. Ellis, vice president of the W. S. C. S., planned the service.

Avenue, New York City. Miss Norris will retire from her post during the current year. Mrs. Mead also announces that the Guild members will raise \$30,000 in the next two years to help build a new home for nurses in Seward, Alaska. The previous home, a Methodist institution, was completely destroyed by fire a few weeks ago.

## SCARRITT COLLEGE CLUB

The Scarritt College Club composed of former students of Scarritt had dinner together at the School of Missions, which was held at Hendrix College last week, and elected officers for the coming year. Mrs. Mamie Adams, of Conway was elected president, Mrs. Dora Mitchell of Conway, secretary, and Mrs. E. T. Wayland of Little Rock, treasurer.

The group decided to make this meeting at the School of Missions

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Searcy District Wesleyan Service Guilds will hold their second annual week end at Beebe on July first and second. Mrs. George Dismukes will be our guest speaker on Saturday evening. We are asking all the local pastors and their wives near Beebe to attend. Also we are including all the district and conference officers of the W. S. C. S. in the district. We are hoping this will be the best meeting that we have had.—Helen Stephens.

an annual affair, and to meet at least once each quarter the rest of the year.

There are two classes of people, the righteous and unrighteous. The classifying is done by the righteous.—Our Lady Missionary.

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# CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

## NEWS FROM WATSON CHURCH

The Watson Methodist Church has made splendid progress in the past year, having received 30 members in the fellowship of the church. The Sunday School shows an increase of about 30 per cent over last year also shows a 50 per cent increase over the average attendance, and a 50 per cent increase at church services. The W. S. C. S. has more than doubled the attendance at its meetings and has sponsored the placing of the pews in the church. The church is now ready for dedication in the near future. All the askings were paid in full in the last year except Retired Ministers' Endowment.

Much credit is due to the W. S. C. S. for the progress that has been made. There is a fine spirit among the membership and everything points to another successful year. There has been an increase in salary for this conference year. The power of God has been demonstrated in men, women, and young people during the Conference year. It is our prayer that this power will be witnessed again this year in a more wonderful way. We are happy to be back for our fifth year. The people have been most kind to us.—W. T. Bone, Pastor.

## FILMSTRIPS FOR THE MAJORS IN CHILE

Last year several organizations bought a slide projector and filmstrip for the Majors in Chile. Recently other filmstrips on the Life of Paul were sent. The following is quoted from letters from the Majors:

"For several weeks now I have wanted to write to you to tell you of the grand success we have had with the use of the filmstrips on the Life of Paul. They have done a double duty in that they not only serve as a teaching medium, but also they give a wonderful opportunity to preach. What we have done is to preview them taking the Biblical citations and mimeographing them along with the questions for the class quiz. Each person in the congregation has the citations and the questions. They know what to look for. When it is over almost every one can answer all the questions on the list. Then we take the questions for discussion and let every one participate in the discussion of the "thought" questions. I take the opportunity to do some exhortation. It is amazing how much the people get out of the service. I am sure we will be using these filmstrips many times throughout Chile."

Other teaching filmstrips, especially on the Bible, would be acceptable. Alfred Knox or others who are interested in visual aids would be able to suggest strips which would be of value.—Margaret Marshall.

Man cannot be satisfied with mere success. He is concerned with the terms upon which success comes to him. And very often the terms seem more important than the success.—Chas. A. Bennett, quoted in Forbes.

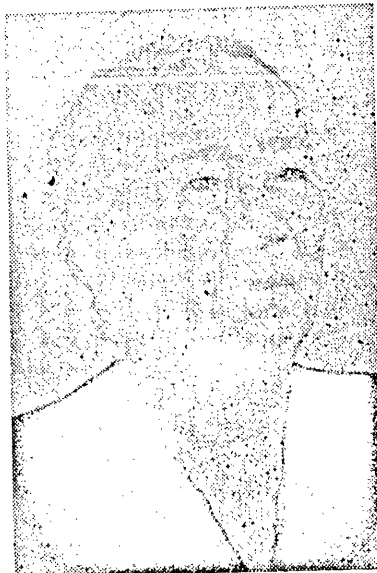
## A TRIBUTE TO A PARSONAGE MOTHER

THE most surprised person who sees the picture accompanying this will be Mrs. J. A. Sage herself. As one of her nine living children, I am grateful to the *Arkansas Methodist* for this opportunity to "rise up and call her blessed."

My mother was born eighty-nine years ago near Prescott, Arkansas. As Mary Livingston she was first married to Rev. William Whiteside when she was just sixteen. At twenty-one she was a widow with three little girls. At twenty-four she became the bride of another Methodist preacher, Jesse Sage. (Nowadays, if a young circuit-rider should marry a widow with three small children there would probably be some question as to his sanity!). However, I've often heard papa say, "The smartest thing I ever did was to marry your mother."

There were seven Sage children—six still living. Not many women can say today, "My first child was born when I was seventeen and my tenth when I was forty-four."

She has been a widow for twelve years, making her home with her oldest daughter, Mrs. T. P. Gantt, in Magnolia, Arkansas. Beloved in her memory are the many parsonage homes in the Little Rock Conference wherever my father was appointed. However, she does not "dwell in the past," but keeps a youthful mind by taking an interest



MRS. J. A. SAGE

in the present, especially in everything that concerns her nineteen grandchildren. She writes regularly to her scattered children, and her letters never fail to be interesting.

I think I can truthfully say she has never made an enemy. Those who loved her as their pastor's wife continue to love her as the years go by. To be in her presence is a constant blessing; to be on her "prayer list" is an abiding comfort; to be her daughter is my greatest joy.—Hattie Sage Mahaffey, Falfurrias, Texas.

## GALLOWAY-TOLLESON SUB-DISTRICT MEETING

The Galloway-Tolleson Sub-District meeting was held at Holly Grove on Monday night, June 12.

The program opened with the singing of a hymn then it was followed by a prayer. Talks were given by Ray Thomas, Amy Thompson, J. T. Richardson, Louise Carvell, and Minola Caplena on their experiences while attending the Annual Youth Assembly at Conway two weeks previous.

The president, Miss Mary Ann Moffitt, called the business meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved and the roll was called. There were 55 present. The secretary read the names of those who were nominated for an office in the Sub-district as nominated by the council. The officers were accepted as a group. The officers are:

President, J. T. Richardson, Holly Grove; Vice-President, Norma Stegall, Hunter; Secretary, Nanette Patchell, Clarendon; Treasurer, Zona Hunsucker, Cotton Plant; Reporter, Dean Stallings, Brinkley; Counselor, Rev. Charles McDonald, Holly Grove.

The four commissions and their counselors are:

Worship and Evangelism, Louise Carvell and Mrs. Robert Carvell, Brinkley; Recreation, Ray Thomas and Rev. Jesse L. Johnson, Brinkley; World Friendship, Anna Beth Brown and Rev. J. P. Chandler, Cotton Plant; Community Service, Frankie Williams and Mrs. Reed, Holly Grove.

The next meeting will be held at Brinkley on July 24 and the new

officers will be installed at that time.

The meeting was adjourned with the Methodist Youth Fellowship benediction.—Dean Stallings, Reporter.

## REPORT FROM LEPANTO

With the finishing of construction on a new entrance to the sanctuary of our church here, recently, at a cost of over \$600.00, we have plans already completed for new lighting system in the main building, which will complete the program of improvements begun when we came here four years ago.

During these years, our faithful people of the church have carried on a splendid program of cooperation in all departments of church work, which has enabled them, in less than four years to build the new Christian Education building valued at over \$20,000.00, with splendid equipment including a modern Youngstown kitchen; to pay for all building and equipment of class rooms and dining room; to carpet the church sanctuary, purchase altar pads for the chancel; purchase Pulpit Bible; install and pay for large all-electric Connsonata Organ at a value of \$4700.00; purchase full supply of new Methodist Hymnals, with large surplus of the books for future growth.

All of these financial plans have been carried through in spite of the fact that the current budget for local work and connectional funds has grown to almost double what was formerly raised.

The Sunday School enrollment and average attendance, although not large, is about double what it was during my first Conference year here.

We are just closing the most successful Vacation Church School ever held here in our church, according to the workers.—Irl Bridenthal, Pastor.

There's a narrow margin between keeping your chin up and sticking your neck out.—Judge.

## WELCOME TO FAYETTEVILLE

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## PROGRAM FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY COMMISSION

(Continued from page 3)

take an interest in the business of the church.

8. We will, of course, urge church attendance and support of the entire program of the Methodist Church.

9. We will try to lead out in the matter of proper attitudes toward the church building, the altar, the properties, etc.

10. We will endeavor to bring a better appreciation of our church music and strive to develop a better singing program in the church.

11. We will conduct Rural Life County Clinics on charge, district, and conference wide scale as able to set up the program. (One is already planned for White County area)

12. We will cooperate with agricultural, educational, and other agencies in building up community life.

These are some of the things that we want to do but of course as we go along other ideas will develop and needs will present themselves. We will meet each need with the hope of being able to "put the grease where the squeak is."

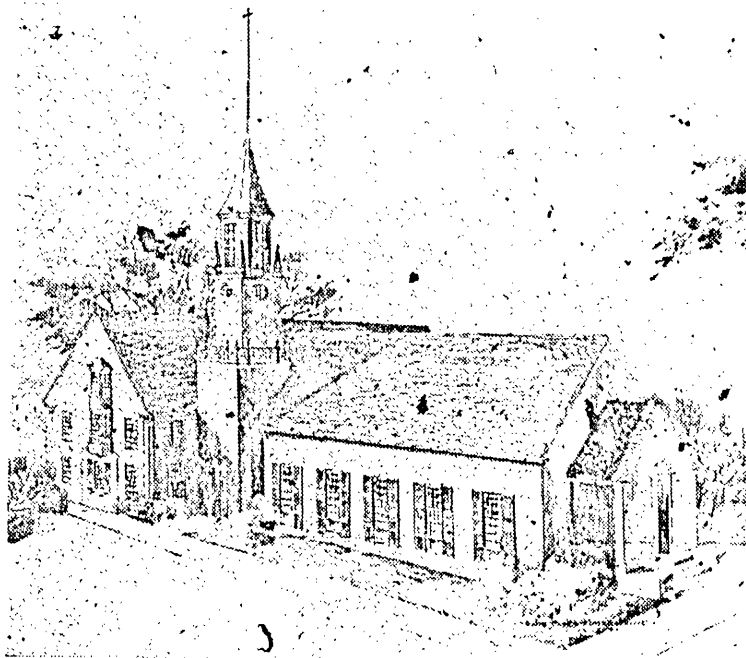
I want to have a place to preach each Sunday just as every other pastor. I shall want to be on one of the charges assigned to me. It shall be my purpose to make regular appointments in these churches. Of course, I shall want it thoroughly presented to pastor and people as to my relationship. Let the District Superintendent be the judge of the assignment and the expounding of the reasons why. If we can launch such a program in the conference and run it say for ten years (and the direction of it should not be tied up in only one man. There should be the understanding that any aggressive, understanding man with interest could carry on.) You can see what might happen. Eighty charges and from two to three hundred churches could give that extra service. Over a period of years the total picture of our rural church will be changed.

Be it understood that it is my purpose to amplify and support and expand the work of the church organization as is, with no side-show or ambiguous approaches or visionary schemes. This is simply cold-turkey, hard factual thinking, with the full understanding on my part that it involves long hours, days, months, and years of hard grinding work with thousands of miles of travel and too much time away from two growing boys and a loyal companion. If it is the will and wisdom of the leaders of the conference to go through on such a program I am ready to spend and be spent.

I make no demands as to salary except to be properly recognized and also ample means to care for my family. The expense for travel and promotion, office equipment, and help should be such as to give me at least an opportunity to do my work. I am anxious that every interested party and person will be giving sympathetic understanding and cooperation and deep earnest prayer for me and the work as we begin. I am aware of all the good that has already been done and also the contribution that others have made. I shall at all times give due recognition and credit to others.

I am writing this lengthy statement now in order that the commission may know my thinking and accept it or reject it before it is "Ever-

## Architect's Drawing Of DeQueen Church



Above is the architect's drawing of the new Methodist Church now being built at DeQueen. Ground was broken on April 2nd, by Rev. E. D. Galloway, the superintendent of the Hope District and Rev. John L. Tucker, the pastor, assisted by members of the building committee, the stewards, and a large congregation. Bishop Martin will lay the corner stone of the new structure in the near future.

The building will be of brick and other permanent materials and will be valued at around \$125,000.00 when completed. The educational

plant will be two and one-half stories high and will be eighty by forty dimensions. A social and recreational hall with kitchen facilities and four adult class rooms will occupy the ground floor. The entire Children's Department will be on the second floor, and the older youth and young adult division will be on the third floor. \$25,000.00 cash and pledges to bring givings to \$37,000.00 are now in hand. John Parks Almand of Little Rock is the architect, and Woodroe White, of DeQueen, is the contractor. The building is to be completed by December 1, 1950.

lastingly too Late." It would be a tragedy for me to step out of a great pastorate and break my connections to find that I had entered the wrong field and the field had gotten the wrong man. Please think over my suggestions and give prayerful thought to them. If they are right then let's go ahead, if they are wrong, then let's know it now.

### THE SEBA-SCOTT METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Seba-Scott M. Y. F. met at Huntington on June 8. The program on "The Light of the World" was led by Ruth Giger. Eighty-one people were in attendance. Mans-

field received the banner.

The next meeting will be on the second Wednesday in July at the Birds View Church on the Waldron Circuit.

A recreation period was held in the park and refreshments were served.—Carol Cherry, Reporter.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Charles Cook was elected president and Jimmy Cheatham was elected vice-president of the Columbia County Methodist Youth Fellowship at its regular meeting on May 29 in Magnolia.

Other officers elected were as follows: Jaunie McCormack, secretary-treasurer; Billy Cheatham, reporter; Louie Caldwell, recreation chairman; Ann Franklin, Worship and Evangelism; Bobby Walthall, World Friendship; Elizabeth Pierce, Community Service, and Mrs. Jim Franklin and Mrs. W. A. G. Woodard, counselors.

The following Monday night, June 5, the sub-district council met to plan the work for the following quarter. Projects planned were as follows:

World Friendship — June, Pledge service; July, Mission study; August, Study of recent religions in Germany.

Worship and Evangelism — June, Installation of officers; July, Song worship; August, Worship program.

Community Service—June, Welcome to pastors; July, Independence Day study or party; August, Pie supper.

Recreation—June, Party for new pastors; July, Fishing and swimming party; August, Ice cream party.—Charles Cook.

"It's either live in peace together or march down the broad highway that leads to hell."—Sen. Tom Connally, of Tex., in Quote.

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### VACATION SCHOOL AT SULPHUR SPRINGS

A very successful two weeks Vacation Bible School closed Friday, June 2 at Sulphur Springs Church. There was an enrollment of sixty-nine children and interest and enthusiasm were very marked. A conveyance was sent out each day into the rural section, bringing in children who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

Mrs. L. R. Crom was superintendent, Mrs. Ben Eldred, music director, and Evelyn Eldred, pianist.

There were five teachers and six assistant teachers.

A large class of boys under the leadership of Bro. Findley and A. E. Stapleton, were taught manual training and the Gospel of John.

The other classes did remarkable work studying Psalms, Bible verses and the Life of Jesus. Much study was put on the prophets and early kings.

The teachers, aside from those already mentioned, were: Mesdames Julia Ducrow, Emma Fountain, Minnie Stapleton and Miss Evelyn Eldred. Assistant teachers were Mrs. Doris Meade, Pauline Suits, Jean Eldred, Mary Davis, Peggy Brown, and Jean Buttram.—Mrs. A. E. Stapleton, Reporter.

### BUFFALO ISLAND SUB-DISTRICT

The Buffalo Island Sub-District M. Y. F. met Monday night, June 19, at St. John's, with an attendance of 104.

Churches represented were Black Oak, Caraway, Del Fore, Lake City, Macey, Monette, St. John, and Sun-nyland.

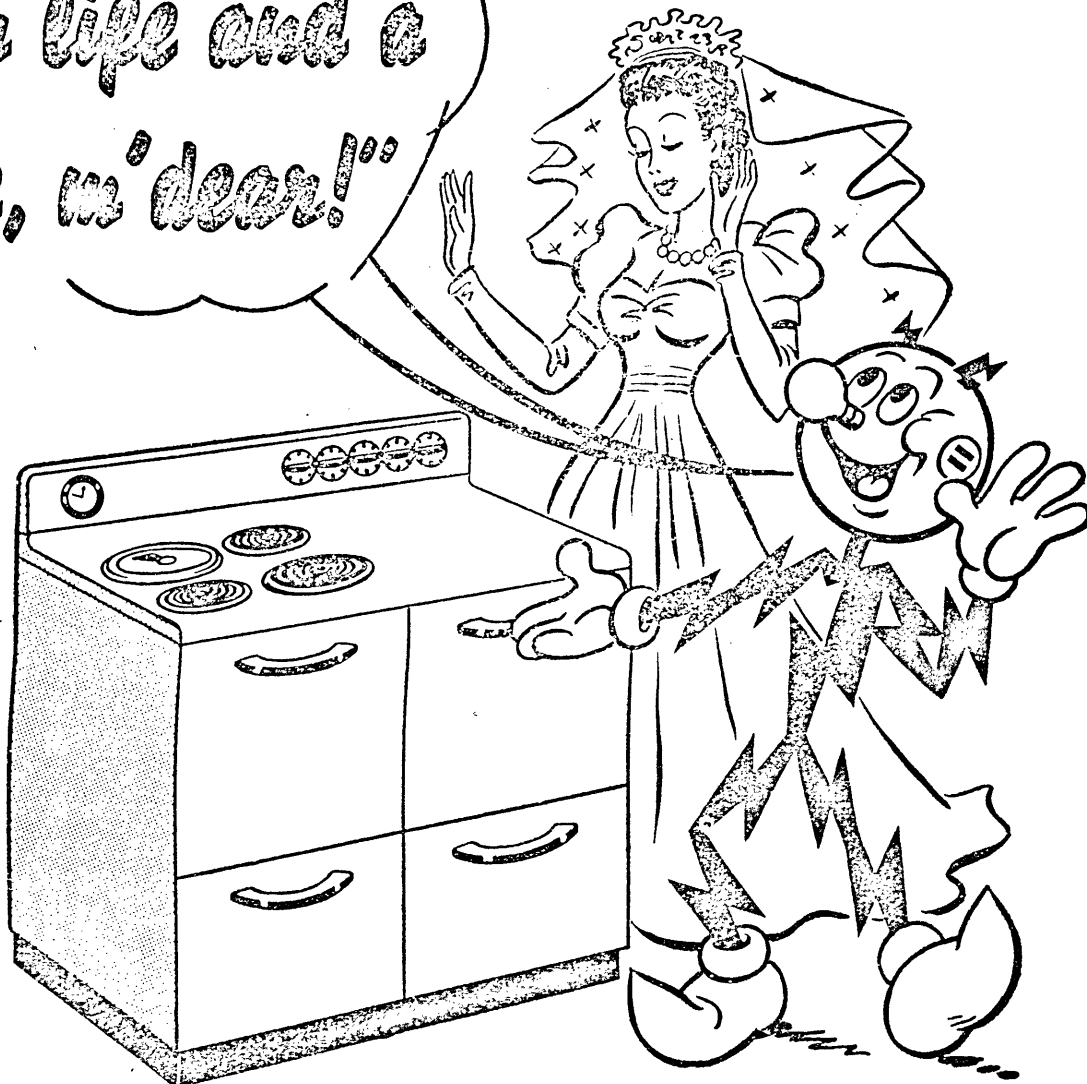
Outstanding points of the worship service were a cornet solo by McCoy Wilbanks, accompanied by Freda Dickson, a vocal duet, composed of McCoy Wilbanks and Margaret Crews, a story, "Climbing the Heights" by Wilma East, and a solo by Billy Joe Lane. Rev. Lee Anderson led the group in prayer.

The business session was presided over by President Audrey McKisson of Monette. The banner was presented to Caraway. The president read a letter from Martha June Warner, Conference M. Y. F. treasurer, asking the Sub-District to consider giving 25 per cent of this month's offering to the Methodist Youth Fund. It was voted that we accept this proposal. Judy Hargrove was appointed to prepare a report concerning the Methodist Youth Fund, its functions, etc.

The group adjourned for games and refreshments.

The next meeting will be at Caraway, July 17, at 8:00.—Laura Wheeler, Reporter.

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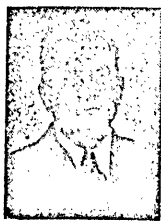
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## The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

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### HOW DO WE DISCOVER GOD'S LAW?

LESSON FOR JULY 9, 1950

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:  
Exodus 4:28-31, 19:16-25.

GOLDEN TEXT: "If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine."  
—Exodus 19:5.

The subject of our lesson today is in the form of a question—"HOW DO WE DISCOVER GOD'S LAW?" God's law is an expression of his will, and his will covers all of life. We have a habit of dividing life up into what we call the sacred and the secular, but God does not seem to make such distinction. He is interested in every phase of life and has laws that cover every phase. For example, God is deeply interested in what we think of as our spiritual welfare, and he has laws covering that realm of our lives. But on the other hand he is just as interested in our physical wellbeing, and he also has laws covering that phase of our lives. There are laws of spiritual health and laws of physical health and God is interested in both. Christ was just as anxious to heal the bodies of people as he was to save their souls. We know that his departure from this earth in visible form did not change his attitude along this line. We have the promise that he is the same forever.

Not only does God have laws governing all human phases of life, but he has laws governing the lower animals. In that particular realm we call his laws instinct. Since the lower animals operate according to instinct their behavior is largely unlearned. A spider does not have to learn to spin a web. The first web he spins is just as perfect as the last. A bird does not have to learn to make a nest. The first nest he builds is just as perfect as the last. And so it is with all other animals which operate by instinct. But we must never forget that this instinct is the law of God in that particular realm.

Then the law of God extends to plant life and even to inanimate objects. All the planets move according to his will and are held in their places by his power. Christ once said, "My Father worketh hitherto and I work." God is always at work. He never ceases. He made this universe through his laws and he continues to operate it by his laws.

#### The Importance of Law

Since God operates through laws it is very important that we know what they are. Some one has said "the most important thing any person can do is to learn the will of God and then do it." Nothing will contribute more to success in any realm of life than to find out in what direction God is moving and then move in that direction. The person who does that has girded his own strength to the power of God. A person set a speed record in an airplane. On being asked how he did it, he replied, "I had the wind back of me." A forester was working in the woods. He cut off a large branch of a tree above his head. It required much effort. He was operating against God's law of gravity. He then turned to chop a tree which

was lying upon the ground. The forest rang with the echo of his mighty blows. In the latter case the power of God's law of gravity was on his side. Of course, these illustrations can be pressed too hard. There are times when it is necessary to work against God's natural laws to accomplish moral ends. Such would be the case, for example, in saving a drowning person.

#### Discovering God's Laws

One of the chief ways of discovering God's laws is by experience. Some one has said, "The truth is what works." When we experiment with a theory if it works then it becomes a proven fact. This is the scientific method of discovering truth. Much of the truth of the Bible can be proven in this way. The Bible makes certain promises if certain conditions are met. To prove the truth of the promise one has only to meet the conditions. Phillip invited Nathaniel to come to Jesus. When Nathaniel expressed doubt about the wisdom of such procedure, Phillip met him with the challenge "Come, and see." He did come and learned by experience that Phillip was right in his estimate of Jesus. The laws of God can be learned in pretty much the same way.

Man discovers God's laws in nature by experience. He thus harnesses the very laws that otherwise might destroy him and makes them serve him. Much progress in the history of the human family has been made along this very line. The same is true concerning God's laws of growth and development in plant and animal life. Man has greatly helped himself by his experience in these fields.

Man also discovers God's laws concerning physical health by experience. He learns that certain foods and exercises are good for health and that others are against health. The same is true in the matter of spiritual life. "Man cannot live by bread alone". There is a spiritual side to his nature that needs to be looked after as well as the physical.

#### Moral-Spiritual Laws

Some students of the subject make a distinction between moral and spiritual laws, though both are of God. Strictly speaking moral laws govern relationships between people. It is possible for people to obey these laws to a certain extent and leave

God entirely out of the picture. Even an infidel may be a good neighbor, kind, fair, honest and upright in all his dealing with his fellowman. Spiritual laws are moral plus. They are righteous laws which govern men's relationship to God and his fellowman. One may be moral without being religious, but he cannot be religious without being moral.

As the laws of God in other realms of life are discovered by experience, so are the moral-spiritual laws thus discovered. In the 20th chapter of Exodus we have the Ten Commandments. These are wonderful laws indeed. We are told that they came from the hand of God. We know that they are true. We are wrong, however, if we imagine that the people of the earth knew nothing about these laws before they were given through Moses. Many of them had already been learned by experience. Long before the time of Moses, people had learned by experience that it was wrong to kill; to put something other than God first in their lives; to steal; to commit adultery; to bear false witness; to covet; to take the name of God in vain; etc. Scholars are pretty well agreed that the exodus of the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage took place about 1444 B. C. But more than 500 years before this time (about 2000 B. C.), the Babylonian King Hammurabi had given his people a set of laws which in many ways parallel those of the Ten Commandments. In fact four sets of codes had been given to various people before God, through Moses, gave the Ten Commandments to the Hebrews. They were the Sumerian, Babylonian, Hit-

tite, and Assyrian. The points where the Ten Commandments differ most from these other codes are in the fact that they are wholly devoid of pagan influence and are given directly by the Lord and as an expression of his will.

This brings us to the second method of discovering God's moral-spiritual laws and that is through the process of revelation. Before the giving of the Ten Commandments many people of the world had learned by experience that certain things were wrong and certain things were right. They had already learned by experience that reward and well-being followed certain lines of activity while the reverse followed the opposite lines. So, the giving of the Ten Commandments as the revealed will of God only verified what many had already learned by experience. The Commandments are thus doubly proven to be true.

#### Present-Day Problems

In spite of the giving of the Ten Commandments through Moses and the even greater illumination of righteousness in the life and teachings of Christ, we still have trouble in ascertaining just what is right or wrong under certain circumstances. In speaking of this difficult matter Lewis Chrisman (in the Home Quarterly) had this to say: "An a class was discussing the complicated, perplexing, and tremendously difficult problem of ways of distinguishing between right and wrong, when one grey-haired brother made the following observation: 'I've never had any trouble of that kind. When I was a boy I learned the Ten Com-

(Continued on page 16)

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Continued from page 15)

mandments, and ever since I've known just what to do." Then, Chrisman went on to say, "Over confidence in the certainty of one's conclusion is always a sign of danger. Even if the Decalogue contains such a comprehensive basis of moral law that it would apply to every possible moral issue of the modern world, most of us are not sufficiently exact thinkers to interpret it correctly under every conceivable circumstances."

All of us note the force of Chrisman's statement. We are living in a world that is vastly different from that with which Moses had to do. It is a bit hard to apply some of his teaching to our modern-day problems, but one thing is certain and that is the fact that human nature in the rough has remained the same. The Ten Commandments, therefore, still have their message to the world. There is a lasting quality about them that will continue to the end of time. It will be necessary, however, to reinterpret them from time to time and apply them to the changing conditions of the world.

## We Should Be Encouraged

The fact that God operates in every realm of life through law should greatly encourage us. It should strengthen our faith in his existence. Even though he is invisible, we see manifestations of his presence through the operations of his laws every day. Laws are not self-generated. Wherever there is law there must be a law-giver. We see law and order on every hand. Under the circumstances, it does not take too much faith to believe that God is "closer to us than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

Then, too, since God operates in every realm of life through law, we can learn how to work with him. We do not learn his law in any particular realm of life today and find it broken tomorrow. God does not set aside his laws at every whim of man. He turns the drive-wheel of the universe always the same way and according to the same plan so that man can fling around it the belts of his own initiative and thus accomplish the work of the world. In the midst of constant flux and change there is one unchanging Being who always operates in the same manner and under the same laws. God's habits of operation are so unchanging that we have come to call them his laws. Even our salvation—though it come by grace through faith—is so certain of attainment when conditions are met that Paul has designated it law. In this connection he went on to say, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." The law of Moses was weak in the flesh and, therefore, could not save, but the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has solved the greatest problem of the universe—that of sin.

So, let us discover and obey the law of God in every realm of life. Our present happiness and success and eternal wellbeing depend upon this.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON  
FOR JULY 16, 1950

## What Makes Family Ties?

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON  
FROM YOUR BIBLE: The four chapters of the Book of Ruth.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Ruth said: 'Treat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.'—Ruth 1:16."

and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."—Ruth 1:16.

## A Beautiful Love Story

This is one of the most beautiful love stories in all literature. Dr. Clarence E. Macartney in his book entitled "Great Women of the Bible" has a sermon on Ruth. The title of the sermon is "The Woman Who Got Her Man." In the sermon he has this to say:

"Faint heart never won fair husband. All's well that ends well. Probably Boaz, the old bachelor, would never have had the courage himself to seek the hand of Ruth. That night God moved in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. But two hearts were made happy. A truly godly home was established, and a child was born and a son was given. They called his name Obed."

In speaking of Ruth, the heroine of the story, William Lyon Phelps had this to say, "She is one of the most attractive girls in the Bible." Goethe, the great German poet, in commenting on the story called it the "loveliest little idyl." On being asked why he did not use it as the basis of a poem, he replied, "I dare not mar that which is already perfect."

## The Story In Brief

During the reign of the judges a terrible famine occurred in Palestine. Elimelech, driven by poverty, took his wife, Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, and went to Moab. Pretty soon after arriving there the two sons married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpha. Not long after this Elimelech died. Some ten years rolled by during which time the sons also died. This left Naomi and her two daughters-in-law all widows. She decided to return to her native land. She pled with her daughters-in-law to go back to the homes of their parents and remain in Moab. Orpha took her advice but Ruth declared she would never be separated from her mother-in-law. The Golden Text or Memory Verse of the lesson (Ruth 1:16) records this decision. Ruth loved Naomi to the extent that she was willing to forsake her home land, her parents, and her religion to remain with her. This is one of the greatest illustrations of love and loyalty to be found anywhere.

On arriving in Palestine Ruth went to glean in the field of Boaz, who was a cousin of her dead husband. Boaz was wealthy. Pretty soon a love affair came up between the two and they were married. To the union Obed was born. Obed became the father of Jesse and the great-grandfather of David, Israel's greatest king. According to the flesh, Jesus was an offspring of David, therefore, the foreign woman, Ruth, became one of Christ's ancestors.

## Book Written For A Purpose

The events which are recorded in the Book of Ruth took place during the reign of the judges about the year 1100 B. C., but the book was written centuries later in the latter part of the fifth century B. C., after the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. It will be remembered that these men were bitterly opposed to the Hebrews marrying foreigners. They not only forbade such future unions, but broke many such marriages that had already been consummated and where children were in the homes. The writer of the Book of Ruth saw the fallacy of such narrow exclusiveness and wrote the book as a protest against it.

## A Family Story

Home life is the basis of all worthwhile living. The family is the earli-

est and most important of all our institutions. In the sight of God the individual is not the unit. The family is the unit. We are told in the Bible that God has set the solitary in families. When God would found a great nation, he made home life the deciding issue. He chose Abraham and his family. In the eighteenth chapter of Genesis we read, "For I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him." The general level of all phases of life—political, economic, social, educational, and even religious—is determined by the home-life. Christian homes have made this nation great. It will remain great only so long as our homes remain Christian.

The Book of Ruth records the story of a great family. Ruth is the heroine, but Naomi must have possessed some good qualities otherwise Ruth would not have been so strongly drawn to her. It will be remembered that she forsook all that was dear in life to follow her mother-in-law.

## Qualities of Good Family Life

The Book of Ruth is probably the best story in the Bible to illustrate the qualities of good family life. Most of these qualities are exhibited in the life of Ruth. May we note some of them.

One quality of good family life is that of sacrifice. People simply cannot come together on a harmonious basis without making sacrifices. Selfishness is the one element above all others that brings about the disintegration of the home. We cannot find it in our hearts to blame Orpha for returning to the home of her parents. This was the natural thing to do. We do, however, greatly admire Ruth for the sacrifice she made in sticking with her mother-in-law.

Another quality of good homelife is that of service. Ruth was industrious. In the place of becoming a liability on the hands of Naomi she became an asset. On arriving at her old home, Naomi became greatly discouraged. Her holdings in Bethlehem had deteriorated, and they only served to recall to her mind the happy days of old, when she was surrounded by her husband and sons. She began to indulge in a thing that greatly weakens character—self-pity. When her friends addressed her as "Naomi", which means "pleasantness", she insisted on being called "Mara" which means "bitterness". But in the midst of all this Ruth never lost morale. She would find a way to look after both her own needs and those of her mother-in-law. She went to the field to glean behind the reapers, as was the custom of the poverty-stricken of that time. With her industry, she held the family together.

Yet another quality of good family life is that of sympathy. All families sooner or later have their burdens, and sympathy goes a long way in the bearing of them. Somehow it helps if we know that somebody cares. Paul was speaking about Christ to some discouraged people when he said, "Cast all of your cares upon him; for he cares for you." Naomi realized that Ruth sympathized with her. This sympathy was one of the reasons why Ruth gave up all to remain with Naomi. She felt that Naomi needed her.

Still another is that of understanding. A lot of family friction is caused by misunderstanding. Through our misunderstanding we magnify each other's faults. We make mountains out of mole hills. At least ninety per cent of family trouble could be removed if we only took the time and put forth the necessary effort to

understand. Ezekiel, the prophet, made this statement, "I sat where they sat." His so doing helped him to understand the attitude of those whom he otherwise might have criticized. Much of our unfair criticism would be turned into praise if we could only learn to put ourselves in the other person's place. Ruth and Naomi fully understood each other. No doubt, they had their differences of opinion, but they had learned how to disagree in an agreeable manner. This was all made possible through their understanding of each other.

Loyalty is also a quality of good family life. Ruth exhibited this quality to the fullest extent. Her choice was an eternal choice and not a mere whim of the moment. She not only insisted that under all circumstances would she stick with her mother-in-law and that she would make Naomi's people and God her own, but she went on to say further, "Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: The Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Nowhere on record will one find a greater expression of loyalty than this. Think of the broken homes in our nation today that might have been saved had such loyalty as this been practiced. Some years ago a young couple, on the verge of being married, informed the writer that they had decided to try married life a while and if it did not pan out they would get a divorce. He refused to perform the ceremony under such circumstances. A lasting home simply cannot be built on such an attitude as that. Many marriages end in the divorce courts today simply because people went into them without a strong determination of being loyal to the marriage vows at any cost or sacrifice.

Co-operation is another quality that makes for good home life. The knack of working with others is a great virtue indeed. It is the sign of the highest intelligence. A man was once walking near a high wire fence. On the other side of the fence were fifty crazy people. Along with them was but one guard. The man said to the guard, "Aren't you afraid to try to look after so many of those people? Don't you realize that they could all get together, kill you, and throw your mangled body over the fence?" The guard replied, "They cannot get together. They would not be in here if they could." Think of how Ruth and Naomi worked together, not only in building a successful home, but also in securing the wealthy Boaz as a husband for Ruth.

Last, and most important, love is a quality of good family life. We are told in the Bible that "Love covers a multitude of sins." All people have their sins; they have their faults. They simply cannot live together as families, or in any other groups without love. Love was the chief quality of this ancient home. One simply cannot read the Book of Ruth without finding the heart throb of love in every paragraph. In fact it was this great force of love that made all the other qualities, mentioned above, possible. It was love that led Ruth to sacrifice and caused her to serve. It was love that caused Ruth to sympathize with Naomi and led her to be loyal to her. Love between the two was also the basis of their being able to work together.

Let all who study this lesson examine their own homes to ascertain whether or not they possess the above mentioned qualities, and above all things may we be sure that they are seasoned with love.