

Arkansas Methodist

Serving One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Methodists in Arkansas

"The World is My Parish" — John Wesley

"All the world" — Mark 16:15

VOL. LXIX.

LITTLE ROCK

NOVEMBER 30, 1950

NO. 47

Selling Organized Religion To America

DURING the month of November the national organization of the advertisers in the United States has been using the various means of advertising to sell religion to America. By radio, in newspapers and in magazines, and on billboards in town and country religion and the organized church and synagogue have been emphasized. We have been particularly impressed by the repetition of the suggestion in many of these advertisements, "Take your troubles to Church next Sunday, millions leave them there." During a time-out period in a football game being broadcast over a national radio network we heard a famous sports announcer give a "commercial" for religion, the church and synagogue.

As far as we have been able to determine this is the second time that the advertising forces of America have emphasized for a month religion in American life. Last year during the same month organized religion came in for a similar period of emphasis. We were on a trip east during that time and we saw dozens of billboards along the highways and in cities which lifted high in a dignified manner the message of religion.

It is our conviction that this contribution to the total life of our citizens by the advertising forces of America is deserving of worthy commendation. We feel that we speak the sentiments of the Methodists of Arkansas when we say, Thank You. The message spoken from the billboard and over the radio in many instances is the only religious message that many souls see and hear during the year.

Campaign Preparations Under Way

PREPARATIONS are well advanced in the office of the Arkansas Methodist for the tenth Annual Arkansas Methodist Circulation Campaign, January 7-14. This word is passed on to the local church leaders in event that there are those who desire to secure promotional materials early. Each year there are several pastors who request materials in advance. Most of these materials are now ready for distribution. Lists of subscribers in each pastoral charge have been prepared and will be distributed to the pastors at an early date. Envelopes, suggestions, etc., will also be placed in the hands of pastors for their use in promoting the campaign.

It is not too early for local church leaders to begin their preparations for a successful campaign in the local church. The success of the campaign in most charges is determined by the thoroughness of the preparation made in advance.

In each year of the past nine circulation campaigns there has been an increase in the number of Arkansas Methodist subscribers. In our opinion one of the substantial reasons for this consistent increase in circulation is the plan used of promoting and conducting the campaign in each conference, in every district, and in each pastoral charge in the state at the same time. We would like to suggest that local church leaders let nothing get in the way of giving every Methodist family in Arkansas an opportunity to subscribe or renew its subscription to the *Arkansas Methodist* during the week of January 7-14. An informed Methodist is an active Methodist.

The Spirit of Methodism And The World Church

WHILE Methodism finds great satisfaction in its general church program and in its basic doctrinal beliefs, it has never been the policy of The Methodist Church to insist that either its program or its doctrines constitute the one and only way to kingdom building or personal salvation.

The Spirit of Methodism is in evidence in the Historical Statement regarding The Methodist Church found in the 1948 Methodist Discipline. The opening sentence of that statement reads, "The Methodist Church is a Church in which the pure Word of God is preached and the Sacraments duly administered." The Spirit of Methodism is found in this statement in that it reads, "The Methodist Church is 'A' Church of Christ" and not "THE" Church of Christ.

In the closing sentence of the Historical Statement we find the same liberal atti-



tude and spirit. That sentence reads, "At the same time it (The Methodist Church) rejoices in the fact that it is a part of the one Church of our Lord and shares in a common task. Its spirit is still expressed in Wesley's words: 'I desire to have a league, offensively and defensively, with every soldier of Christ. We have not only one faith, one hope, one Lord but we are directly engaged in one warfare.'" Methodism declares in that sentence that it is "a PART of the one Church of our Lord" and not that it is "THE one Church of our Lord."

While Methodism, as such, may not be essential to the development and progress the church of the future should make, the Spirit of Methodism is essential if the church of the future is to reach and save the multitudes of people now outside the church who know little about and care nothing about the petty differences which now prevent the unity of the church.

Before the Christian church can deliver its full powers as The World Church it will be necessary for the different branches of the church to "desire to have a league, offensively and defensively, with every soldier of Christ." The World Church, with the tremendous powers it could deliver for good, must wait until the spirit evidenced by these words of Wesley has found a larger place in the life and thought of the various branches of the Church of our Christ.

America Needs Statesmen

AMERICA has an overproduction of politicians and a critical, dangerous shortage of statesmen. Without question, our nation faces today the most critical period in its history. There are so many crosscurrents in the world and so many crosscurrents even in our own nation that the official who always tries to discover which way the wind is blowing before he decides how he is to cast his vote on pending issues is about as useless and worthless as any other "me too" timeserver.

Never before has America needed so badly capable, conscientious, sincere statesmen. Whether we like it or not, America is in a position of world leadership. We cannot possibly meet the responsibilities such a position carries if our national and international policies are to be determined by petty politicians who feel that they must always lie down with their ear to the ground before they can stand up and vote. We need statesmen who place the welfare of the nation and the world above personal, political ambitions. The destiny of our nation and possibly the peace of the world, in this critical period, is in the hands of our national leaders. Such a responsibility should make statesmen even out of self-seeking politicians.

What War Has Done To Korea

WE Americans generally are so busy trying to discover what effect the war in Korea will have on the world-wide struggle between East and West that we are in danger of overlooking the major disaster that has overtaken Korea, the scene of the conflict.

Before the first World War Japan had come into complete control of Korea. For more than three decades Japan ruled, enslaved and exploited the millions of this unfortunate country. At the close of World War II there was hope, for a while, that Korea might finally be a free nation.

Agreements gradually came to light which, in effect, divided Korea at the 38th parallel into two areas, the northern area under the supervision of Russia, the southern area under the supervision of the United States. Efforts of the United Nations to set up in Korea again a united government failed because of the unwillingness of Russia to cooperate.

The war in Korea is not a result of the belligerent spirit of the Koreans themselves. Left alone they would have been happy to live together in peace. However, the northern area, dominated, trained and armed by Communism was used as a cat's paw in a grandiose scheme of conquest. As a result of that aggression the entire peninsula of Korea became a battleground between forces of the United Nations and Communism. In this war between Communism and free nations Korea has become the scene of a destruction, carnage and slaughter that has laid waste the nation from one end to the other.

If we add to this indescribable destruction of physical properties, economic life and essential food crops the rigors of a Korean winter, it is possible for us only faintly to imagine the hunger, suffering and want now being experienced by the many millions in Korea who are the victims of this great East-West struggle.

There is talk of the United Nations rebuilding Korea when the war is over. That is a commendable decision but it is also a long story.

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY
400 TAPSCOTT DRIVE
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48106-1000

THE following is to be attached: "The mission of the Church must be brought into a focus with the moral law and the social responsibilities inherent with the role of the Church in the Society of the United States through the Council of the Church. The Church must be a moral statement. Let the voice of the Church be a voice of freedom for the oppressed, a voice for the impoverished, of love for the oppressed. Let this voice be heard in our own and other lands. Let

Camden District, Tuesday, December 5, at Stamps
 Conway District, Tuesday, December 5, at Dover
 Seary District, Tuesday, December 5, at Heber
 Springs
 Arkadelphia District, Wednesday, December 6,
 at Fountain Lake
 Batesville District, Wednesday, December 6, at
 Newport
 Paragould District, Wednesday, December 6, at
 Corning
 Fayetteville District, Thursday, December 7, at
 Huntsville
 Hope District, Thursday, December 7, at Nash-
 ville
 Ft. Smith District, Friday, December 8, at Paris
 Forest City District, Tuesday, December 12, at
 Holly Grove
 Jonesboro District, Wednesday, December 13, at
 Lake Street, Blytheville
 The Pine Bluff, Little Rock and Monticello
 District Conferences were held this week.

THE DEVOTIONAL PAGE

REV. ROY L. BAGLEY, Editor

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

le is like a mirror. It makes
face himself.—Protestant

use a dull tool; but a keen
uld do better work.—Origin

ent of some people's religion
they know the name of the
they stay away from.—Gli-

is the rent one pays for
he occupies in the world.
Shelton

ions are sure to ring your
but it is your fault if you
n to stay for dinner—Mis-
Tidings

kest hour in the history of
ng man is when he sits down
how to get money without
earning it.—Horace Gree-

is educated until he has
o pronounce the word "No"
—Christian Advocate

very system of economy men
manage men manage men
only manage things.—Will

can use more than a certain
of money. The rest is just
n the game.—Ray W. Sher-

—From Quote

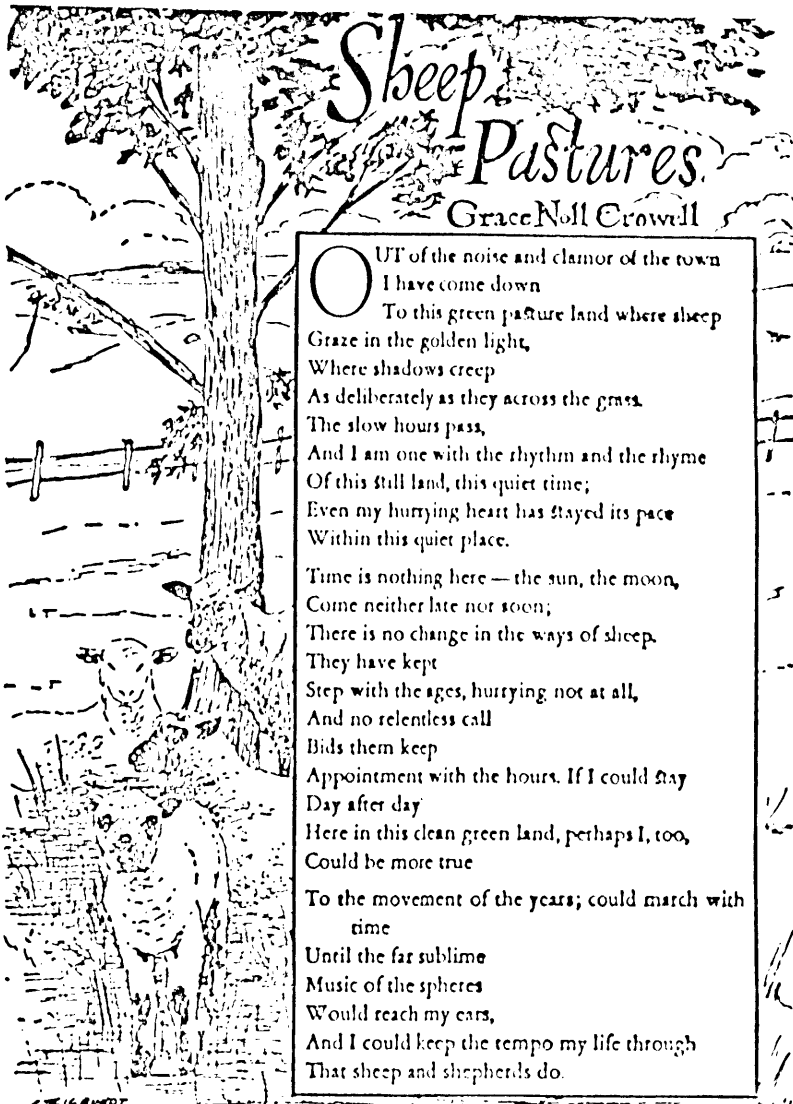
THE TALISMAN

ard your God is God of gods,
of lords . . . He doth exe-
judgment of the fatherless
w, and loveth the stranger,
y him food and raiment.
therefore the stranger: for
strangers in the land of

ometimes said that those
e suffered privation or loss
e tender to others. And
opposite will be observed,
truly kind person may
ve had the ills to which
ously ministers. The truth
mpathy, not experience, is
man that makes us want
And this princely gift of
on is possessed alike by
o have suffered and those
e not.

ve therefore the strang-
were strangers in the land
" was not addressed to
o had in fact been strang-
selves. It was their re-
estors who had known the
sterness. Hence the appeal
ir imagination. Everyone
a stranger in his heart, and
uffering and loss in his
d can feel the agony of
oor in his own soul, if he
himself.

ough we cannot do any-
e, to allow one's self to
h another is the great gift.
he grief. So the first gift
ness is to remember that
ere strangers in the land
—Forward.



OUT of the noise and clamor of the town
I have come down
To this green pasture land where sheep
Graze in the golden light,
Where shadows creep
As deliberately as they across the grass.
The slow hours pass,
And I am one with the rhythm and the rhyme
Of this still land, this quiet time;
Even my hurrying heart has stayed its pace
Within this quiet place.

Time is nothing here—the sun, the moon,
Come neither late nor soon;
There is no change in the ways of sheep.
They have kept
Step with the ages, hurrying not at all,
And no relentless call
Bids them keep
Appointment with the hours. If I could stay
Day after day
Here in this clean green land, perhaps I, too,
Could be more true

To the movement of the years; could march with
time
Until the far sublime
Music of the spheres
Would reach my ears,
And I could keep the tempo my life through
That sheep and shepherds do.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O Thou Great Shepherd of us all
lead us to a deeper concern for those
who are not in Thy fold. Give to
ministers, teachers, parents, and
youth a burning passion for the lost.
Bring the picture of lost men, women
and children before our eyes until
we shall be driven from our com-
placency. Bring divine discontent
into our souls until we shall go out
into the byways to find the wander-
ing and point them into the Way,
Truth and Life. Awaken in the lives
of the lost a desire to know Thee
and Thy pardoning love. Convict
men of sin. May Thy followers be
ashamed of complacency. Give pur-
pose to all our activity, Thy purpose.
Forgive us, O Lord, of our neglect
of the privilege that is ours. Help
us to repent for the mispent energy
and revitalize our spirits with Thy
presence that our lives may glorify
Thee. We pray in the spirit of Jesus
Christ who gave his life for the lost.
Amen.

Have a service in which you ask
people to give their favorite pas-
sage of scripture and many will
quote a part of this wonderful
Psalm. Is it not because of the as-
surance that it brings? The blessed-
ness of the Shepherd's care is
poured out in every line. That is
what we as Christians are urging
our lost friends to find. This as-
surance can be theirs. It is little
wonder that men who have experi-
enced this deep assurance have a
pardon for lost men and women;
they too are anxious to have others
share this blessed privilege with
them.

Turn the picture around to the
Christian who seeks the lost and
you will find that the blessedness
of sharing this experience grows as
we take the redemptive message
of Christ to others. The greatest
joy that can come to us as Chris-
tians is to lead another to Christ. It
is true to experience that the shep-
herd when he has found the lost
calls his friends to rejoice with him.
His own love becomes deeper; his
faith becomes more vital; and his
assurance grows with each experi-
ence.

We ask the question, one out? The
answer comes back, no not one but
many are out and they are look-
ing to us to lead them into the
Shepherd's fold. We lose sight of
this at times but may through
prayer and consecration we be
brought back to a sense of the pri-
vilege that is extended to us. May
we enter into this glorious privilege
in fellowship with the living Christ.
May the Christmas season remind
us of the Father's concern and
bring that same concern in our lives
until the lost and the last and
least have been led to accept Jesus
Christ as Lord of their lives.—R. B.

"BUT ONE WAS OUT"

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the
sheep." (Luke 10:11)

Alfred Soord has a painting that
he has entitled "The Lost Sheep".
If you have not looked at that
picture for a while go back and
find it then turn to John's Gospel,
the tenth chapter, and read again
the words of the Master and catch
the concern that the shepherd has
for the sheep. That is the concern
that we as Christians must have
for those who are lost. The whole
life of Jesus portrays that spirit of
deep concern for those who were
lost.

Then turn to Luke's Gospel, the
fifteenth chapter, and read from
the third verse through the seventh
and that concern will become
deeper when we realize that we as
Christians cannot rest until the
last lost person has been urged
to turn from his sin and follow
Jesus Christ. We cannot have the
consoling thought that "one was
out" for we have multitudes that
are out. When our church member-
ship is but a part of our population
we must press forward with the re-
demptive spirit and message of
Christ. In looking at our Church
School enrollment we do not find
consolation for here again we find
only a small part of our Church
membership is enrolled in our
classes and a smaller part of those
who are of the church ever come
to Church School. Couple with this

the tragic picture of our day and
then that concern will become a
burning passion in our hearts.

The glorious privilege of bring-
ing the lost into the fold of Christ
is too great for the ministers to
enjoy alone. It must be shared by
every sincere layman, by every
teacher and officer in the Church
School, by every woman in the
W.S.C.S., by every youth in the
M. Y. F. This is a privilege that
every person can enter into. Par-
ents have the glorious opportunity
of leading their children into fel-
lowship with the Living Christ.

Entering this glorious privilege
is not an easy matter. It will re-
quire special preparation on the
part of each one of us. We will
have to renew our fellowship with
the Shepherd through prayer and
consecration. We will have to re-
capture the glow of His presence
that His glory may be revealed in
us as we go seeking the lost. We
must place this first in our lives
as sincere Christians.

The painting of Soord does not
picture an easy task; but a coura-
geous one. Jesus does not leave the
impression that seeking the lost
one is easy. It took His life but he
was willing to lay down His life
that we might have freedom from
sin.

We love the twenty-third Psalm.

SCRIPTURE
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No. Ark. Town And Country Commission

THE BRANCH CIRCUIT

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Thompson are serving as pastors of the Branch Circuit. They have one son, Benton, who makes a splendid first assistant. It is a joy to work with them on the Branch Circuit and have fellowship with them in their home. They are visiting in the homes of the people and carrying on a full program of worship in all churches. The Branch Charge will make progress in all departments under their leadership.—J. Albert Gatlin.

WHEN we moved to Branch this past June our first appointment was at Lowe's Creek for a ten o'clock service, then at Ratcliff for an eleven o'clock service. We found about twenty-five or thirty people at Lowe's Creek to greet their new pastor. This is a fine congregation of people. We left Lowe's Creek for Ratcliff for the eleven o'clock service. We were disappointed in that no one showed up for the service. After making a number of calls in the community we found that there had been no Sunday School or worship service in two or three months. They seemed to think that they were too few in number to carry on their church and Sunday School. Since we spent the next five weeks at S. M. U. at the Pastors' School we did not get to be back in the community until our return home. We began our Sunday School, prayer meeting and regular worship services again. As Branch Circuit is one of the charges in the conference parish we had the help of Brother Gatlin for a week's revival at Ratcliff. Though there were few in attendance in the beginning the house was filled by Thursday night. In spite of rain and other difficulties we had a profitable week. We now have a mid-week prayer service, a Sunday eve-

ning fellowship meeting, regular worship services and Sunday School. We have hope for the future. We have organized a mid-week prayer service at Branch, and the interest and attendance are good. We have one of the finest groups of young people at Branch we have ever seen. They make up our choir and are dependable in many other ways. Our W. S. C. S. at Branch is taking great interest in the church. We have had a fine revival at Lowe's Creek. On Sunday, November 5, Brother Gatlin was with us in all four churches. The communion service was held that night at Branch. Our district superintendent, Dr. W. Henry Goodloe, has already made a number of visits on the charge and is giving inspiring leadership. We are enjoying our work on this charge and look forward to a great year.—The Fred Thompsons.

FIFTH SUNDAY ON THE WALDRON CIRCUIT

October 29 was a great day at the Bird's View Church in Scott county. It was the writer's high privilege to preach at the eleven o'clock hour. This day was given over to the theme of the "Harvest Festival." A new altar had just been placed in the church. The decoration motif was the season's grain and fruit. Beautiful and inspiring indeed was the occasion. A large gift of fruits and vegetables was placed at the altar for the Methodist Children's Home, Little Rock. J. S. M. Cannon, Superintendent of the Home, was present with two of the youth from the Home. Rev. Felix Holland, the pastor, presided over the service. He and Rev. Elmo Thomason, pastor at Waldron, are carrying on a great co-operative program in Scott County. A beautiful spacious and well-designed parsonage has recently been completed

EL DORADO HAS RURAL STUDY

(Continued from page 6)

Fares The Rural Church In America." Mrs. Edward W. Harris led the devotional and Mrs. A. H. Wacker, accompanied by Corliss Arnold, sang a solo. Mrs. Thompson commented on the importance of the circuit rider in the early churches in rural areas, which was the theme of the clever setting for this program. Mrs. Fred Mayfield gave a book review of "So Sure of Life," which fascinated the group. Mrs. R. H. Thompson dismissed the meeting with a prayer.

"The Church Lends a Hand In Christianizing Its Community" was presented Monday, the 30th. Mrs. Guy Dunn, member of Circle No. 11, served as leader. Mrs. Tignor Thompson gave the devotional and Mr. Alva Waddell, accompanied by Mr. Corliss Arnold, sang "Grateful, O Lord, Am I." A constructive talk on her work with rural families was given by Miss Maeda Asbell, Union County Home Demonstration Agent.

at Waldron. The writer looks forward to further visits to Scott County.—J. Albert Gatlin.

If you would know a man, first learn to love him.—In Ex.

A True or False questionnaire was given by Mrs. Dunn with the group participating and the discussion was most interesting. The Rural Creed was repeated in unison as the prayer of dismissal.

The concluding study was given Tuesday afternoon, under the sponsorship of Circle No. 12, with Mrs. D. S. Collins as leader. Mrs. J. C. Craighead gave a resume of the previous studies. A very clever playlet was presented, depicting the rural church as a sick patient and Mr. Corliss Arnold and Mesdames Lynn Goodwin, J. B. Tims, W. L. Norwood and H. K. Perrin, dressed in the professional raiment of surgeons, as consulting physicians and surgeons, called upon to prescribe for the "patient." Mrs. Wm. Apple, accompanied by Mrs. J. B. McCuiston, sang a solo, and the devotional was given by Mrs. E. C. Rauert. Mrs. Edwin Harris introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Robt. L. Core, pastor of Parker's Chapel Methodist Church, and Secretary of the Town and Country Commission of the Little Rock Conference, who spoke of his work in the rural areas and in Community Churches, in Nebraska. Mrs. Frank Russell gave a brief history of the local church, from its inception to the present time. The meeting was dismissed by repeating the motto.—Reporter.

FILMS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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The Guiding Star Running Time 30 M. Rental \$12.00

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The Littlest Angel Running Time 16 M. Rental \$5.00

"... greatest Christmas story of modern times." ... now a 16mm sound motion picture! When Coronet Magazine presented the color picture story of The Littlest Angel last December, millions of readers acclaimed its simple beauty and inspirational message.

A Christmas Dream Rental \$2.50

Running Time 10 M.
(No. 815) A little girl, laden with new toys on Christmas Day discards an old rag doll but when she is asleep, Santa brings the doll to life! Its mischief turns the room into a bedlam of fun and the child's awakening is an awareness that old friends are best!

The Night Before Christmas Rental \$2.50

Running Time 10 M.
(No. 807) "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house—," Who doesn't know this famous, popular poem! It comes to life with real actors and marvelous animated sequences to bring joy to the children and happy memories to adults!

Santa Claus — Punch & Judy Rental \$1.25
Running Time 10 M.

Christmas Rhapsody Rental 3.00
Story of a Christmas Tree — Running Time 10 M.

Four Christmas Hymns Rental \$3.00
Running Time 10 M.

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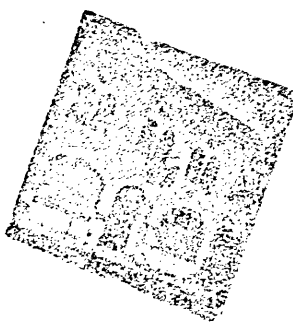
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NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

By Ira A. Brumley

The next twelve months will offer to pastors and other church workers a number of splendid opportunities for training and fellowship. There are to be a number of Area, Jurisdictional, and church-wide meetings. That you may begin planning your calendar so as to take advantage of the ones that will mean most to you, we are suggesting some of these meeting dates:

There will be a workshop for Directors of Christian Education and Educational Assistants, Little Rock, January 8-11. This will be open to such workers of Little Rock, North Arkansas, and Louisiana Conferences. It is possible that other conferences will send workers to this meeting.

A Visual-Aid Workshop will be held in Little Rock, January 23-24, for the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences. Some 25 or more persons from each conference may enroll for this workshop.

Ministers' Week at Southern Methodist University, February 5-8, promises to be an outstanding event. The speakers for Ministers' Week are Drs. Nels F. S. Ferre, Harold A. Bosley, and Clarence T. Craig. The dedication of the Perkins Quarangle will be held on February 7. The first Homecoming for ex-students of Perkins School of Theology will be held at this time and there is to be a banquet on the evening of February 6 with Bishop Paul B. Kern as speaker.

The Area School of Evangelism will be held in Shreveport the week of February 11-16.

There is to be a Coaching Conference on the courses on "The Christian Home," Conway, February 27-March 1. A group of leaders will be invited for each of the courses to be emphasized in the fall teaching program. The North Arkansas and Little Rock Conferences are cooperating in this program.

The South Central Jurisdictional Convocation is to be held in Little Rock April 3-5.

The Mt. Sequoyah Leadership School for the South Central Jurisdiction is to be held July 16-27. We are not yet certain about the date for the School of Missions and the Missionary Conference at Mt. Sequoyah.

The National Methodist Town and Country Conference is to be held at Sioux City, Iowa, July 21-24. This is to be the Quadrennial Conference on Town and Country Work.

The National Convocation for Methodist Youth is to be held in West Lafayette, Indiana, August 27-31, being held on Purdue University Campus. The North Arkansas Conference has a quota of 5 adults and 43 young people.

There is to be a National Conference on "The Christian Family," Chicago, October 12-14.

The meeting of the National Conference on Christian Education, which meets every two years, will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 7-12.

The Youth Jurisdictional Workshop for Conference, District, and

Sub-district officers is to be held August 8-18.

The Jacksonville Church is conducting a First Series Training School for the young people of the church, using the First Series Course on "Christian Ideal of My Community," the course being taught by the pastor, Rev. Harold Spence.

The Wilson Church is having a training school this week, using the First Series Course on "Teaching Children," the school being taught by Mrs. Ira A. Brumley.

The Antioch Charge is having a First Series Training School on "The Church and Its Work."

The Rector Area is to have a First Series Training School, December 11-13. This school is for all the churches within reach of Rector.

The First Series Course on "The Church and Its Work" is to be taught in a three-day school at Osceola, December 12-14.

Church School Statistics

Mimeographed sheets are being prepared for each district to be used in the respective District Conferences. These sheets are to show comparative enrollment at four points in the North Arkansas Conference local church school reports.

These reports will show the Nursery enrollment for 1949 and 1950, also the enrollment in the Adult Home Department, in the Youth Division, and the total enrollment for '49 and '50. Our reason for using these figures is to reveal the need for local churches checking up at these points. These reports will show that a large per cent of our church schools are carrying on no program in the field of Nursery Home Program or the Adult Home Program. These reports will also show very limited gains made in the Youth Field. These reports also show whether or not there was a gain or loss in total church school enrollment last year. We hope that these sheets will challenge local church workers to re-study their own situation and make plans for expanding the church school program.

The Church School and Evangelism

The Church School has a three-fold evangelistic task. Its first job is to make people sensitive to the Christian message. Evangelistic surveys have indicated that people must be prepared through the church, home, or other agencies to make Christian responses. Some churches are discovering that they are running out of prospects for commitment because they have not brought more people into a program which makes persons sensitive to the Christian message.

The second responsibility of the church school is to lead individuals to personal commitment to Christ and His Church.

The third responsibility of the church school is to guide individuals who have made commitment to Christ, in order that they may grow as Christians. This responsibility calls upon the church school to provide an on-going program of activities through which the individ-

SOME FINE THINGS GOING ON IN CHILDREN'S WORK

By Mrs. Ira A. Brumley

Mrs. J. A. Gatlin, District Director of Conway District, is emphasizing "Parent-Teacher Nights" at which times the parents visit their children's Church School rooms and carry out activities the children carry out on Sundays. They have opportunities to see pictures, books, teaching units and other materials the children and teachers use on Sunday mornings.

Mrs. Gatlin has sent personal letters to all children's workers of the district (if she has their names) and has visited many children's departments on Sunday mornings.

Mrs. S. O. Patty, District Director of Fayetteville District, reports that twenty-eight children's workers in Farmington, Goshen and Prairie Grove, have signed "Fellowship of Study" cards, promising to read four books pertaining to children's work, this year. Mrs. Patty has given out the following leaflets in three group meetings of children's workers: "Parents, First Teachers of Religion", "What Parents and Church School Teachers Have a Right to Expect of Each Other", "Children's Music" and "Teachers Can Learn to Teach Effectively." Prairie Grove children's workers have placed "Parents, First Teachers of Religion" in the hands of all their parents. Mrs. Patty is also emphasizing using the "Children's Division Yearbook" as she visits churches.

Mrs. A. N. Storey, Director of Children's Work in Paragould District, displayed the following materials at a district meeting of pastors: "The Pastor, a Friend to Children", "Children's Division Yearbook", "Plan Your Vacation School Now" and "Vacation Church School in the Small Church." Mrs. Storey herself, has read the following books recently: "These are Your Children", "Pound of Prevention", "Child's Growth and Development" and "A Child Needs to Like Himself."

Mrs. Storey has held one Junior week-end camp with 56 juniors and 14 adults enrolled. Miss Viola Callihan gave splendid help in this

work. She finds opportunity to make responses which help him to become more Christlike in the way he thinks, feels and acts.

Thus it becomes the responsibility of the church to strengthen its program of Christian Education through the church school and train its church school leadership so that such leadership may be equal to the responsibility of giving guidance that the church school may be an effective program in the field of evangelism.

SAM JONES' SERMONS

"Best Loved Sermons of Sam Jones." Also "SAM JONES"—An Ambassador of the Almighty—"Biography's Best." Price \$2.00 Each. Send Check or Cash. Order one or both from the Author, Dr. Walt Holcomb, 80 Park Lane, N. E. Atlanta, Georgia, and he will Autograph your copy.

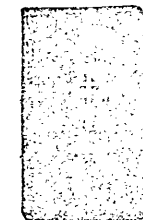
venture. The juniors expressed themselves by saying they enjoyed the Nature Hike and Worship most in the camp.

Miss Anna Rose Miller and Mrs. Frances Winter, Co-District Directors of Children's Work in Ft. Smith District, are continuing their long line of distinguished services to the children and children's workers of Ft. Smith District. Lucky are the children's workers of Ft. Smith District who read "The Spotlight, new sheet for children's workers. Not only does this splendid paper carry letters from workers in the local churches telling about interesting things they have been doing and inspiring articles from outstanding teachers from over the country (Miss Mary Shipp Sanders, Mrs. W. A. Wooten, Mrs. W. F. Bates, Miss Fay McRae and many others) but it includes recipes for making many things all the way from clay and finger paint to diaramas, potato baskets and a frieze. Best of all, poems, songs and litanies, written by the children themselves (outgrowth of CREATIVE teaching) are abundant in this splendid paper. Mrs. E. O. Newsom of Goddard Memorial Church, assists Miss Miller and Mrs. Winter in this project.

These co-directors have been assisting in Vacation School, and Miss Miller recently taught a Training School class, about which she wrote: "Fathers and mothers as well as teachers entered into discussions and all activities such as clay modeling, song illustrating, making a Palestine house, spatter printing, etc. They made definite plans, (1) to form a class for pre-school-age children, thus taking them out of the Primary class, (2) to secure movable partitions to separate the space allotted to each children's class, (3) to use activities in teaching and to CORRELATE THEM with LESSON MATERIALS. (4) ap-

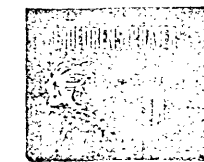
(Continued on page 7)

Christmas Gifts for Christians



A POCKET PRAYER BOOK
By Ralph S. Cushman. Prayers, Scripture quotations, and poems by Bishop Cushman. Black leatherette binding, 35 cents per copy, 3 copies for \$1.00. Deluxe Edition, with white binding and gold edges, 50 cents per copy.

THE POCKET BOOK OF FAITH
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WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. SUE M. WAYLAND, Editor

EL DORADO HAS RURAL STUDY

The study of "Rural Prospects," one of the most interesting mission study books ever used by the Woman's Society of Christian Service, was begun on Monday, Oct. 23rd. Members met in Fellowship Hall for a luncheon at 12:30. The tables were arranged in banquet formation and were beautifully decorated with fall flowers, by Mrs. Ernest Powledge. Mrs. Harry Wadsworth, president, was at the speakers table with members of the Junction City WSCS, who were guests of the local society, and she gave the address of welcome and thanked the Junction City organization for the lovely birthday cake they brought, commemorating the tenth birthday of the WSCS. As each candle was lighted, ten members responded with a short poem depicting the work of various committees of the society and for the eleventh candle, the "one to grow on." Mrs. Wadsworth announced plans for future expansion.

After the luncheon "Toward A Christian Community" was portrayed with a map of the state of Arkansas, a map of Union County and a lovely miniature rural community, with the little rural church being shown as the hub of community activities. Mrs. R. A. Payne was responsible for this attractive setting. Mrs. J. C. Craighead gave a brief introductory talk on the study and said, "This is 'Operation Unity,' for all have worked together to make this study a success." She introduced Mrs. Chas. Wright who was the program leader. The devotional was given by Mrs. W. C. Farley, Mrs. Howard Elder, and Mrs. G. E. Coleman gave an interesting playlet, "Catching Up With Country Life," after which Mrs. Rose Couch was presented in a dramatic reading, "Travelin'." The benediction was given by the congregation repeating the motto of the organization. These members of the Junction City WSCS were present: Mesdames W. L. Harper, W. B. Savage, Jeff Couch, J. H. Shelton, W. A. Taylor, James Hale Reynolds and B. N. Powell.

Circle No. 10, with Mrs. J. E. Thompson as leader, presented the program Tuesday, entitled "How

SULPHUR SPRINGS IS HOST TO GRAVETTE

Sulphur Springs WSCS was hostess to the Gravette society in an Anniversary meeting. Gravette was the "Encourager Society." A very impressive program was given by the Sulphur Springs society.

A birthday cake was presented by the Gravette society, on which were placed ten candles by the Sulphur Springs ladies representing different phases of the WSCS work.

After the program the ladies went to the parsonage for a fellowship hour. The church and the parsonage were beautiful with fall flowers.

The secretary of Youth Work of the Sulphur Springs society reported funds sufficient to send a Chinese pupil one year to college. —Reporter.

THANK GOD

Thank God for life!
Even though it brings much bitterness and strife,
And all our fairest hopes be wrecked and lost,
E'en though there be more ill than good in life,
We cling to life and reckon not the cost.
Thank God for life.

Thank God for love!
E'en though sometimes grief follows in its wake,
Still we forget love's sorrow in love's joy,
And cherish tears with smiles for love's dear sake;
Only in Heaven is bliss without alloy.
Thank God for love.

Thank God for pain!
No tear has ever yet been shed in vain,
And in the end each sorrowing heart shall find
No Curse, but blessings in the hands of pain;
Even when he smiteth, then is God most kind.
Thank God for pain.

—Selected

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE, W. S. C. S. FINANCIAL STATEMENT—SECOND QUARTER, 1950-51

Balance brought forward			\$ 2,953.87
RECEIPTS:			
Undirected (Pledge to Missions)	W. S. C. S.	W. S. G.	Total
Lenten Offering	\$10,874.13	\$1,286.27	
Projects	190.62	232.31	
Wanda Stahley	50.00		
Orlene McKimney	416.02		
State Sanatorium	172.25		
Special Memberships:			
Honorary Baby (11)	55.00		
Adult Life (14)	350.00	25.00	
Adult Life (1)	113.50		
Conference Rural Work	400.70		
Little Rock Methodist Council	12.50		
In Remembrance Gifts	12,645.72	1,538.58	14,184.30
Total Credit on Pledge			
Total Credit on Pledge			14,385.23
Youth Fund	185.47		
Children's Service Fund	15.46		
Total on Appropriations			
Cash for Supplies	628.31	147.20	
Supplementary Gifts	23.97	29.25	
District Cultivations Fund	327.15	94.30	
Week of Prayer	1,434.08	149.40	
Student Loan Fund	64.35		
Alcohol Education	257.85		
E. T. W. Special	192.40		
Other Receipts	10.05		
Total Receipts from Districts	15,776.81	1,971.73	17,748.54
Total Receipts			
Other Receipts:			
From Mrs. Minnie Webb Hook (refund from Car Fund)	301.67		
From Miss Virginia Guffey (refund from Car Fund)	13.10		
Special Offering taken at Annual Meeting	138.69		
Refund from Mrs. Shelton	6.00		
Gift from Miss Ary Shough for Car Fund	5.00		
Grand total Receipts			18,213.00
Add Balance—Total cash to account for			\$21,176.87
C.S.R. & L.C.A. reported \$12,435.04			
Disbursements:			
To Division:			
Undirected Pledge to Missions	\$ 8,084.77	\$1,196.23	
Projects	1,132.07	232.31	
Special Memberships	965.00	25.00	
Conference Work (State Sanatorium)	150.00		
In Remembrance Gift	12.50		
Total Credit on Pledge	10,344.34	1,453.54	11,797.88
Total Credit on Pledge			
Youth Fund	185.47		
Children's Service Fund	15.46		
Total on Appropriations			11,998.81
Week of Prayer	1,533.48		
Foreign Supplies	81.66		
Home Supplies	683.85		
Supplementary Gifts	27.97		
Division Cultivation Fund	30.34		
Total to Division			\$14,406.11
Other Disbursements:			
Administrative Expense	\$ 281.99		
Printing and mimeographing	145.03		
Annual Meeting	999.03		
Refunds:			
District Cultivation Fund W.S.C.S.	327.15		
District Cultivation Fund W.S.G.	218.25		
Little Rock Methodist Council	131.70		
Alcohol Education	257.85		
Student Loan Fund W.S.C.S.	59.35		
Student Loan Fund W.S.G.	5.00		
E. T. W. Special	225.00		
Little Rock Methodist Council (Negro Worker)	75.00		
To apply on car for Camden			
Rural Worker	1,350.00		
Gift for Wanda Stahley	50.00		
School of Missions	69.50		
For Auditing of books	50.00		
Spiritual Life Workshop	14.05		
Gift for Margaret Marshall	50.00		
Arkansas Legislative League	26.00		
Repairs of Station Wagon (V. Guffey)	40.00		
Jurisdiction Cultivation Fund	364.14		
Memorial Record Book	8.67		
Bank Charge	1.40		
Other Disbursements		20.75	
Total Disbursements			\$19,176.03
Bank Balance Nov. 15, 1950	\$2,000.84		
Mrs. C. I. Parsons, Conference Treasurer			
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS			
ARKADELPHIA DISTRICT: Mrs. Archer J. Smith, Hot Springs First Church.			
CAMDEN DISTRICT: Mrs. S. H. Turner, Lewisville; Mrs. Mary Mulkey, Lewisville; Mrs. Grady Fincher, Waldo; Mrs. M. L. Cook, El Dorado.			
HOPE DISTRICT: Adult Life: Mrs. J. B. Hesterley, Prescott; Mrs. Ira P. Rogers, DeQueen; Mrs. H. C. Phillips, Mrs. E. C. Black, College Hill; Mrs. Beulah Townsend, Mrs. Anna Jones, Mena.			
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Stephens Boyd Humphries, John Michael Callahan, Davis Louis Young, Michael William Dobbs, Dorothy Louise Light, George L. Jones, Jr., Tom Joe Floyd, II, 28th Street.			
PINE BLUFF DISTRICT: Honorary			

JONESBORO DISTRICT HAS PRAYER RETREAT

A very helpful and inspiring prayer retreat was held in the Huntington Avenue church in Jonesboro, for the District WSCS, under the direction of Mrs. B. B. Lipe, secretary of Spiritual Life Work.

The theme of the meeting was "Deepening Our Experience With God." The meeting opened with soft music and quiet meditation led by Mrs. Schisler.

There was group participation and discussion led by Mrs. Lester Weaver.

A school girl lunch was served at the noon hour. At the opening of the afternoon session Rev. John McCormack was the leader and speaker, and after a solo and special music he led the group in a consecration service.

There were fifty ladies present representing thirteen societies. The church leaders for the day, Mrs. Lipe and her committee, deserve much credit for a helpful day apart. —Reporter.

HARMONY GROVE HAS WEEK OF PRAYER PROGRAM

The WSCS of the Harmony Grove church, of the Hope District, met for a Week of Prayer Program on October twenty-seven.

Mrs. Ed Turner was in charge of the devotional. The first part of the program was given by Mrs. G. C. Phillips and a poem by Mrs. Addie Carter, followed by prayer.

Inspirational talks were given by Mrs. R. R. Woolard, Mrs. F. W. Wardlow, Mrs. B. Drumheller, on the Home Settlement house, Deaconess Retirement Fund, North African projects, and Pakistan Projects.

The pastor, Rev. Cleve Gilliam, gave a talk on prayer and what the WSCS means to the church. The dedication of gifts was given in responsive readings. A nice offering was received. The meeting closed with singing, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." The meeting was an inspiration to all who were privileged to attend. There was a very good attendance of members and visitors. —Reporter.

DR. PEARLE McCAIN VISITS SPRINGDALE

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Fayetteville District met at Springdale in October for a special meeting, at which time Dr. Pearle McCain was the principal speaker.

An offering amounting to \$75.00 was given to Dr. McCain for her work in China. A lovely tea was given by the Springdale ladies of the WSCS, for all guests and members of the church. —Reporter.

Life: Miss Wanda Stahley, Stuttgart Grand Avenue. Adult Life: Miss Florence McGehee, Pine Bluff First, W. S. G.; Mrs. B. K. Leake, Keo. Honorary Baby: Anne Johnson, Sheridan, Ark.; Linda Louise Knoll, Margaret Louise John, Jenefer Jane Moll, Stuttgart Grand Ave.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Sara Jo Lee, Watson.

BY CONFERENCE: Adult Life: Bishop Paul E. Martin, Mrs. Rufus Sorrels, Mrs. T. R. McGuire, Mrs. Robert McCammon, Mrs. W. F. Bates, Mrs. Leland Primm. Honorary Baby: Mary Susan McCammon. Honorary Life: Mrs. R. H. Cole, Mrs. Fred R. Harrison, Mrs. Neill Hart. Honorary Patron: Mrs. J. P. Carpenter.

MEMORIAL: John F. & Lida D. Taylor.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

MEETING OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY M. Y. F.

The Mississippi County M. Y. F. held its monthly meeting November 13th at the Dell Methodist Church. Churches represented were Osceola, Luxora, Blytheville and Dell. Churches visiting from the Buffalo Island M. Y. F. were Manila and Black Oak. Approximately one hundred fifty young people attended.

Each church sent representatives to the four commissions which held a twenty-minute discussion with the counselor. An hour of folk games, musical game contests, and singing preceded the serving of refreshments.

Rev. Eugene Hall introduced us to the program by telling us some ways music helps us to worship. Shirley Peterson, Maurine Dobbs, and Margaret Whistle gave the history of three old hymns and then led the congregation in singing them assisted by Miss Virena Moody at the organ. Vailima Shepard sang the "Lord's Prayer," accompanied by Mrs. Charles P. Kennett.—Reporter.

CARAWAY METHODIST CHURCH

The pastor and his wife came to Caraway more than five months ago, and we are very grateful for the many blessings that God, and the people of our church have bestowed upon us during this period. We shall endeavor to give our very best to God, and the people in Caraway in order that the Kingdom of God may continue to go forward.

Several weeks ago, at the close of our annual revival, the congregation gave us one of the largest poundings we have ever received, and they also gave us money enough to buy a suit of clothes for the pastor, and a lovely coat for Mrs. Moore. Anytime they get ready to do this again, we are ready.

For the first time in the history of the Caraway Methodist Church the following claims were paid in full by the middle of the Conference Year: District Superintendent's Salary, \$98; Bishop's Fund, \$31; Retired Ministers' Fund, \$252; Conference Benevolences, \$100; Sustentation Fund, \$30; General and Jurisdiction Fund, \$8; November Special for Hendrix College, \$10; District Fund, \$36; School and College, \$10; Church School Rally Day, \$10, and other miscellaneous items.—J. W. Moore, Pastor.

SOME FINE THINGS GOING ON IN CHILDREN'S WORK

(Continued from page 5)

point a committee of adults and children to clean the church each week (they have no caretaker), (5) to make small-size chairs for the children.

Hardly had this training class ended when a father moved a good picture of "Jesus and the Children" from a spot high above the piano in front of the church to a wall space in the children's corner and hung it ON THE EYE LEVEL of the CHILDREN; one of the mothers found a broom and started sweeping down the cobwebs; a father gathered up the trash and hauled it away, a mother took an apple box

JONESBORO DISTRICT NEWS

More than thirty ministers of the Jonesboro District met at the Leachville Methodist Church, Tuesday, November 14th, for their third fall breakfast, and interests concerning the work of the district. Rev. E. B. Williams, district superintendent, was in charge, and Rev. C. C. Burton was pastor host. The Intermediate Class, sponsored by Mrs. Marie Kennett, and Mary Lee Bearden, president of the class, served breakfast to the ministers in the basement of the church.

At the close of the breakfast, Brother Williams called the meeting to order in the beautiful church auditorium. Rev. Irl Bridenthal, of Lepanto, led in singing, "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise," and the district superintendent led in the reading, "Light and Truth," which is the forty-fourth Sunday's lesson. Rev. H. L. Robinson, of Luxora, led the prayer.

Rev. Byron McSpadden, who has recently been appointed pastor of the Trumann Methodist Church, was introduced to the group. Brother McSpadden followed Rev. LeRoy Henry who is now serving as chaplain in the Air Corps.

The leader emphasized the November Special for Ministerial Training and Hendrix College, which carries financial support for Hendrix College and certain young ministerial students in the several colleges. Rev. J. W. Moore, of Caraway, reported that he had already sent his special to E. W. Martin, treasurer.

One novel feature which was given by Brother Williams is that all pastors were given a list of the several committees of the District Conference, and were asked to name members of their respective delegates to the several committees according to their fitness. Two meetings of those several committees will be held so that all members may have opportunity for full participation in the work of the conference.

All the ministers of the district were urged to get their reports ready for District Conference, and mail them in to Rev. Lyman Barger, 907 Huntington Avenue, Jonesboro, not later than Tuesday, December 4th, in order that these reports can be compiled, printed and ready for the District Conference, which will meet in Lake Street Church, Blytheville, Wednesday, December 13th.

Rev. Ray McLester, of Joiner, who is serving his third year as pastor, invited the ministers of the district to have breakfast with him and his church, Tuesday, January 9th, at 8 o'clock. The meeting closed by singing, "Jesus Lover of My Soul," and the benediction was given by Rev. J. O. Davis of Gosnell.—J. W. Moore, of Caraway, and Ray McLester, of Joiner, Press Representatives.

Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."—Acts 5:20.

home with her to begin carrying out the plan of making small chairs for the children.

NEWS FROM JONESBORO FIRST CHURCH

A lot 100x150 feet has been purchased by First Methodist Church, Jonesboro, for the erection of a new Methodist church to be called St. Paul's Methodist Church. The property is located south of Jonesboro in Wood Brothers Addition. The following were elected as trustees at the First Quarterly Conference held Wednesday evening, November 15: Roy Sigler, Oscar Melton and Charles A. Stuck. Homes are now being secured in south Jonesboro and workers are being prepared to start a Sunday School. It is planned to begin sessions the first week in January, meeting in the homes. Many of the older youth have volunteered to work in this mission church. Next spring a revival meeting will be held and it is hoped that a building will be erected on the lot. Other Methodist churches of Jonesboro have been invited to help in this project, as a cooperative adventure.

First Church now has five young men preparing for the ministry and two young women preparing for full time Christian service.

An Adult Fellowship of Study has been organized in the church, meeting each Sunday evening at 6:30. During the past quarter, the Children's Division has also organized a Sunday evening session which meets at 6:30. With the Methodist Youth Fellowship, we are now holding Sunday evening meetings for all three divisions of the Church School.

The evening worship service is well attended. The altar service each Sunday evening has drawn dozens of people to kneel in prayer. The main sanctuary of the church is now filled on Sunday morning, with some people going to the balcony for seats.

A full and active youth program is carried on. Miss Alice Boone is the new Youth Director of the church.

As an outgrowth of the recent study by the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild on "The Rural Prospect," the Guild has purchased a Communion Service to be presented to the churches of the Jonesboro Circuit. They have also offered the services of a team of women to be added to the approximately twelve lay speakers who are now going out from First Church to serve on this circuit.

In response to an appeal from Chaplain Ray D. Seals printed in the *Arkansas Methodist*, a large box of powdered milk, cocoa, hard candies, etc., is being sent to him for the Central Orphanage in Kaesong, Korea, by the Jonesboro First Church Wesleyan Service Guild.

Rev. John M. McCormack and Mrs. McCormack, accompanied by Mr. Marvin Melton as pilot of the

plane, flew to Anna, Texas, Sunday, November 26, for a homecoming service of the church there. Brother McCormack served the church as pastor during his seminary days at Southern Methodist University.

He will be the speaker at the union Thanksgiving service in Jonesboro, to be held at the Church of the Nazarene on November 30 at 10:00 a. m.

Brother McCormack spoke at Harrison, Ark., on November 22 to a city-wide meeting on the subject of "The Cross Faces the Sickle—Shall It Be Praying Hands or Clenched Fists?"—Reporter.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE AT TWENTY-EIGHTH STREET CHURCH

The Twenty-Eighth Street Methodist Church in Little Rock will undergo a "face-lifting" operation next spring when the entire exterior of the building will be covered with permastone.

The membership will engage in a fund-raising campaign throughout the winter months and begin the work with the coming of warm weather next year. The improvement project is expected to cost approximately \$5,000.

For the raising of the amount needed, separate drawings of each outer wall of the church have been prepared and drawn into squares representing square feet. These squares will be "sold" at 85 cents each, singly or in blocks of any number. As "sales" are made the squares will be cancelled until all have been sold.

The men of the church have been busily engaged during the summer months in painting the Sunday School classrooms. A new sign has been erected outside and more work is planned to beautify the interior of the building. A flagstone walk has been built connecting the west door of the annex with the street sidewalk.

Rev. Clyde T. Parsons is pastor of the church and James Nolting is chairman of the Board of Stewards.—E. S. Burt.

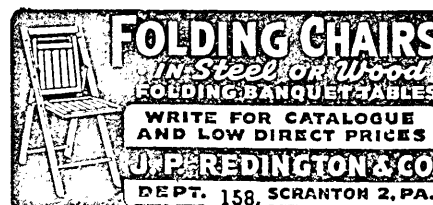
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The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

Lesson based on International Sunday School Lessons: One lesson, prepared by the International Council of Religious Education, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education.



WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THE GOSPEL?

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 10, 1950

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE: Acts 8:4-8, Acts 18:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17; Philippians 1:12-18, 2:12-18.

GOLDEN TEXT: "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God: Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

During our recent studies we have been thinking about the subject of stewardship. A couple of Sundays ago we thought together about the stewardship of money. Last Sunday the subject was the stewardship of life. Today we have for our consideration the stewardship of the gospel.

What Is The Gospel?

Our theme today is in the form of a question—"What Shall I Do With the Gospel?" Before trying to answer this question it might be well to consider another—What is the gospel anyway? The Bible answers this question for us. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Paul, in speaking of the gospel said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

The gospel has been called good news. It certainly lives up to this name. There can be no greater news than the fact that Christ died for our sins. Sin is the world's number one problem. It has caused more trouble in the world than all other forces combined. As far back as the history of the human family goes men have been trying to deal with sin. They never succeeded in solving the problem. All of their efforts failed even including that Judaism. In the eighth chapter of Romans Paul goes on to say, "What the law could not do, in that it was flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of God might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

The injunction of the law was, "Do this and live," but man unaided could not keep the law. He was too weak in the flesh. The injunction of the gospel is "Believe this and live." The law sought salvation by works while the gospel teaches that it is by grace. The law would have man merit salvation. The gospel realizes that man can never merit salvation and therefore gives it to him freely. It is not what the sinner himself does that brings relief but his acceptance through faith of that which has been done for him by Christ. Little wonder that the gospel thus understood would be called good news. It is salvation by grace through faith and not of works. In Romans 5:1 the great Apostle says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Importance of the Gospel

The importance of the gospel is seen in the fact that it is the hope of the world. As stated above, sin

is the number one problem of the world. The gospel is the only force ever discovered by man that could adequately deal with sin.

In Romans 1:16 Paul tells of the power of the gospel to deal with sin. He wrote this letter at a time when the gospel seemed weak and insignificant. Not many years before this time the Founder of the Christian religion had been rejected by his own people; condemned by the religious leaders of his day; and nailed to the cross by the Roman Government. At first the Christian movement was very small. It was like a mustard seed. People who accepted it were ridiculed, but in spite of all this Paul went on to say, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

The gospel has power to transform human lives. It so changes those who accept it that they come to hate the things they once loved and love the things they once hated:

*"It breaks the power of canceled sin
And sets the captive free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me."*

We are told that human nature has remained the same down through the years. Outside of Christianity, this is certainly true. People may be more cultured and refined now than they once were, but in the raw they are just as selfish as ever, and selfishness is at the root of most of our trouble. It is a well-known fact that people everywhere are either Christ-centered or self-centered. But when a person has really and truly accepted Christ as his Saviour he has the experience that Paul spoke of in Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

Paul Emphasized the Gospel

To the mind of Paul the gospel was the most important thing in all the world. He was willing to suffer and even sacrifice life itself if in so doing the cause of Christ could be advanced. He even rejoiced in his afflictions when he felt that they contributed to making known the gospel. In Philippians 1:12-18, "I want you to know, brethren, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." What had happened to Paul? He was a prisoner in Rome. He wrote this letter from the prison. He insisted that at least three helpful things had come from his imprisonment: First, this gave him a chance to preach

the gospel to the Praetorian guard; second, other Christians who had been rather timid and fearful had been led by his example to preach the gospel boldly; and third, even his enemies, thinking to add affliction to his bonds, had also preached the gospel. This latter group had done it from envy and jealousy but nonetheless he was rejoicing that the gospel had been preached.

While in prison Paul was constantly chained to a soldier of the Praetorian guard. The soldiers of this guard took turns in watching Paul. They changed places every six hours. This gave Paul a chance to talk to a large number of them as time went on. He won many of them to Christ and they in turn went out to win others. This made Paul very happy. He thus was planting the gospel, as he said, in Caesar's household, for these were the Emperor's special guard.

Example of the Early Christians

In the seventh chapter of Acts we have the account of the murder of Stephen who was the first Christian martyr. The disciples were being greatly persecuted in Jerusalem and the persecution finally culminated in Stephen's death. This did not end the persecution but it became all the more intense led by Saul of Tarsus. He drove the Christians either underground or out of Jerusalem. It will be remembered that he was on his way to Damascus to carry on his persecution when he was converted.

In Acts 8:4-8 we have the result of this scattering of the disciples: "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the people received Philip's message gladly. This was especially true since his message was accompanied with many miracles."

It has been truly said that "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." It certainly proved so on this occasion. In the place of the persecution that arose over the death of Stephen stamping Christianity out it cause it to spread and grow. The disciples went everywhere preaching the gospel.

In those days all were preachers. There was not such a distinction between the ordained and the unordained as we have now. This condition led to a rapid growth in the movement. All Christians felt the responsibility of making the gospel known to others. It is true that most of their preaching was in the form of testimony. People simply went about telling what Christ had done for them. A statement concerning this period was made in Revelations: "They won out by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony." They all felt that they were stewards of a great truth. The world was rotting in sin and they had found a remedy for sin. This made them debtors to all who had not heard the good news.

Our Responsibility For Preaching the Gospel

We too are responsible for preaching the gospel in our day. The world is still in great need of an adequate remedy for sin. We are debtors to all who have not accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord. We have the remedy that will cure the ills of this world. To withhold it at a time like this not only becomes un-Christian but inhuman.

All are preachers whether they want to admit it or not. We preach

by deed as well as word. In fact the preaching by word, regardless of how eloquent it may be, does but little good unless it is backed up by a consecrated life. Our sermons are our lives. Edgar Guest was right when he said:

*"I'd rather see a sermon
Than to hear one anyday;
I'd rather you would walk with me
Than merely point the way."*

We must never forget that the Christian's life is the sinner's Bible. The sinner will not take time to read the Bible. He is too busy with the things of this world. But as he passes along the way he will read the Christian's life. In his own heart he has certain ideals which he has never put into practice but which are there nonetheless. He measures the Christian's life by those ideals. If the professed follower of Christ falls too far short, then the sinner is hurt. If, on the other hand, the Christian lives up to his profession, the sinner is helped. Such example may finally lead him to accept Christ. It was said of the early disciples, "They took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." There was something about these people that reminded sinners of the Lord. So it must be with us if our lives are to count for much in building the Kingdom of God.

The Lord is depending upon us to make known the way of salvation to others. Not only are we to live consecrated lives before them, but we must never fail to lift our voices for his cause. Many seem to be ashamed to speak up for the Lord. Let them remember that Christ himself has said that if they are ashamed of Him before this wicked and adulterous generation He will be ashamed of them before the Father and the angels. Some are like the man who was going away to visit a certain community where the people were noted for their worldliness. His friends told him that these people would make it hard on him as a Christian. When he returned they asked him how he made out. He replied, "Fine, they did not find out I was a Christian." The world is drifting in the wrong direction now because too many professed Christians are so weak in their lives and so timid in their testimony for Christ that others do not even find out that they profess to be Christians at all.

May God help all of us to realize that we are stewards of the gospel. We have this great blessing to share with others. We only fully keep it for ourselves as we give it to others.

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