

# Arkansas Methodist

Serving One Hundred and Sixty

and Methodists in Arkansas

"The World is My Parish" — John Wesley

into all the world — Mark 16:15

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## "Signs Of Our Times"

IT is quite common for a church or school to protest the location of a liquor store within a certain distance of the church or school because the liquor business is so completely out of harmony with the church and the school that it is felt that its influence would be especially hurtful if located too near these institutions.

According to Religious News Service, it is left for liquor dealers in Sanger, California, to present a petition to the city council, on which the "principal signers were tavern keepers, who declared a church 'would seriously interfere with established businesses and business expansion in that territory'. One tavern owner contended that church members might try to force bars to close during church activities. Petitioners also claimed that existence of the church near bars might have an adverse effect when they sought to renew their liquor license."

The protest was rejected by the mayor but it is a "sign of our times" when liquor interests are brazen enough to attempt to stop the building of a church in an area, where the city zoning permitted church construction, on the ground that it might hurt their business.

## Evangelism On A County Level

IT was our privilege last week to visit briefly in the Paragould District where the third of a series of visitation-preaching evangelistic missions in that district was in progress. This campaign is unique in that where most of such campaigns are conducted on a district or local church level these campaigns have been promoted on a sub-district, county or two county basis. The two previous campaigns were in the Lawrence and Sharp Counties and the Randolph and Clay Counties. This last mission was in Greene County, involving the six Methodist churches in that area. This is the second year this program has been followed in that district.

The program was the usual pattern of the preaching-visitation mission, the ministers meeting each morning for reports, instruction and worship; the laymen meeting in the evening for instruction and assignments and visitation, and the worship service held in the local church conducted by a visiting minister. Much of the leadership for all three campaigns during the year was drawn from within the district as the various pastors assisted each other.

According to the District Superintendent, Rev. A. N. Storey, records show that the number of persons making decisions as a result of this program during the last two years is definitely larger than when each charge planned its own evangelistic program apart from any cooperative efforts as in former years. We find ourselves in agreement with him when he also says that when all the churches have an evangelistic program which is followed out, the net results are quite likely to be greater than when no particular program is planned. He also feels that one of the greatest benefits which such a program affords is the training which the ministers and laymen are getting in this experience.

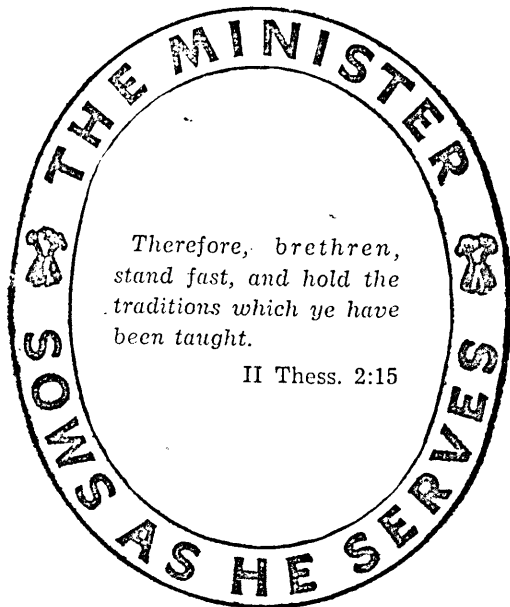
We were impressed with the ample time given over to the period of instruction of the ministers. In some programs which we have visited this period has been a hurried one with little time for informal discussion. The smaller group on a sub-district basis can take more time for discussion and sharing of experiences and problems with the net result that a better job of instruction is accomplished.

## Musts For "Our Ministry"

HERE are many things essential to an effective ministry in The Methodist Church or in any other church. Without question one essential is that a minister must be morally clean.

In speaking of moral cleanliness, we do not refer only to gross immorality. We have in mind our conversation, our attitudes and any other activities that have moral implications.

Because of the nature of his work and because of the confidence people have in a consecrated ministry, the preacher has accorded to him privileges that other men, professional or otherwise, do not have. As



pastor, he may call at will in the homes of his members in the absence of the husband and visit with the wife alone for whatever time his visit may require. The only explanation of that visit he need give, if any, is that he is making a friendly pastoral call. No other man, outside the family, could regularly visit in a home under such circumstances without arousing suspicion.

When husbands, without a question, allow ministers such unusual privileges in their homes in their absence, the minister should meet that confidence with a care, a consideration and a cleanliness of thought, word and deed that such an unlimited trust deserves. A minister could hardly sink lower than to get consent of his mind to betray such confidence.

Moral laxness in a minister's life is not only a betrayal of a trust imposed in him by others, it is a betrayal of himself by himself. By such conduct he repudiates the high ideals common to a sincere ministry and dishonors the profession to which he professes to have given his life.

Fortunately it is a very rare exception when a Methodist minister is accused of immoral conduct. The fact that no accusations are made is right good evidence of his good moral character since his life is an open book before the people he serves and any misconduct is generally noised from the housetop.

## The Raney Lectureship

THE Methodists of Arkansas are exceptionally fortunate in having the opportunity of hearing Dr. Roy L. Smith, noted religious editor, author, and lecturer, who will deliver the first lectures of the T. J. and Inez Raney Lectureship to be delivered at the Pulaski Heights Methodist Church of Little Rock, May 6-10. Dr. Smith, eminently qualified for this assignment, has selected as his theme "The Greatest Conversation Ever Held." Two lectures will be given each day, 10:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m., with the first lecture on Sunday being the sermons at the morning worship service.

Those responsible for making these lectures possible, together with the leadership of the Pulaski Heights Church, are generously sharing this series of lectures with any and all who desire to attend. While the lectures are being given in the beautiful new Methodist sanctuary in Pulaski Heights, those concerned want it clearly understood that everyone is cordially invited to attend.

This lectureship has been established by Mr. and Mrs. Alton B. Raney, Pulaski Heights members, honoring Mr. Raney's parents, T. J. and Inez Raney. Arkansas Methodism is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Raney for this lectureship that will contribute much to the spiritual enrichment of our people.

## "Tag" -- Now Played With Bullets And Bombs

"TAG," according to Webster, is "A children's game in which one designated as 'it' chases others until he touches or tags a player who in turn becomes 'it.'" This definition of a childhood game seems to describe right well the up and down, back and forward, Korean war. Just at the present the Communists seem to be "it" and they are chasing us down the peninsula as they have done on former occasions. Our leaders confidently expect that our forces will be able to successfully contain the Communistic attack. When the force of the drive is spent, then we will again be "it" and will drive the Communists back across the 38th parallel where they will likely turn again and so on ad finitum.

While the Korean war may have some of the characteristics of the childhood game, it has been anything but a game for our boys and their families who have suffered more intensely, in proportion to the magnitude of the war, than American troops have suffered in any war. While it is still officially classified as a "police action" our casualties have run into many thousands. The only real reason for expecting that the present plan of strategy will bring war to a successful conclusion, from our viewpoint, is the questionable hope that the Communists will realize that they are in a hopeless struggle and will be willing to accept a reasonable peace.

There is reason to believe that the hope that the Communists will tire of the struggle and ask for peace rests on a very uncertain foundation. They have the men and, with the backing of Russia, they have the means and equipment to carry on a war, under the present plan, until America would become sick at heart. A war, which is primarily China against America, is a "bargain counter" proposition for Russia. It is worth infinitely more than it is costing Russia to keep the Korean war going.

It is this indefinite, indecisive strategy in the Far East that has caused the turmoil and unrest in the minds of so many of the American

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