

Arkana

Methodist

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Try The RUS This Year

IT occurs to us that the annual program of Bible reading sponsored by the American Bible Society which is scheduled each year during the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas should be all the more meaningful this year since the publication of the Revised Standard Version. This should be a good time for many of us who live busy lives to learn more about the new version. The suggested passages for this period have been published in an earlier issue of this publication or they may be secured from your pastor. This could well be a period of time when you can introduce yourself and family to the new Revised Standard Version of the Scriptures which was released for distribution only a few weeks ago. The reading of the suggested passage can be made a family affair with spiritual profit to all concerned.

The American Bible Society is to be commended for this annual emphasis on the reading of the Scriptures. There is the usual objection on the part of some that it is far better to read the Scriptures every day in the year than simply during the Thanksgiving-Christmas period. With this, even the American Bible Society leaders agree. There is also no better time to begin a program of Bible reading than during the period from Thanksgiving until Christmas.

The Blight Of Religious Bigotry

THERE are many who deplore the fact that we have so many different denominations in our church life in America. Most people who think readily agree that there are some possibilities for hurt, harm and confusion in the fact that the Christian church has so many organized groups with varying shades of doctrines.

It is true, however, that the hurt to Christianity possible through the division into various denominations is a minor, secondary matter when compared to the hurt caused by the blight of religious bigotry found in numbers of these denominations.

In our efforts to understand the will of God, as revealed in the Bible, it is not surprising that our interpretations of that great Book differ. In looking about us for a church home, it is not surprising that some people like the discipline and church government of one denomination better than others. In looking for a place to worship and serve, it is not surprising that some people like the forms of worship and the manner of expressing religion in one church better than in others.

It is a matter of which the world about us approves and of which we ourselves should be genuinely happy that in religion, in America, we have the right to choose our own faith and worship in whatever way seems best to ourselves. Nevertheless, the traditional right of "freedom of worship" in our American life does not grant to anyone the right to unchristianize owners who believe and worship after a different fashion. Unless along with it one claims the virtue of infallibility, it is unchristian to claim for himself the right to interpret the Bible for himself and to worship as he pleases without at the same time granting that same privilege to others.

The world about us readily grants to Christian people the right to think differently about religion. It readily grants the right to express

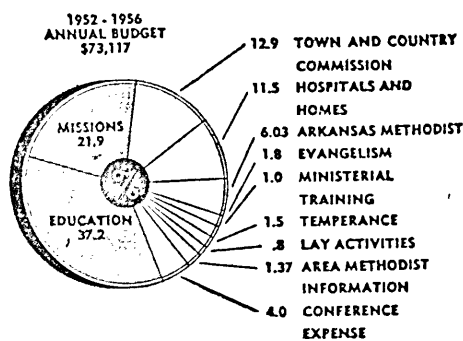
(Continued on page 4)

Conference Missions And Conference Benevolences

LET us remember that in the Arkansas Conferences; when we pay to World Service and Conference Benevolences, 50 per cent of each dollar paid remains in the Conference to support the interests promoted by the various Conference Boards. Of the amount collected for Conference Benevolences, 29.75 per cent goes to the Little Rock Conference Board of Missions and 21.2 per cent to the North Arkansas Board of Missions for the work they do within the Conferences.

The Annual Conference Board of Missions promotes two major interests in our Annual Conference program. In cooperation with the Bishop and District Superintendents, it plans for and supports, or

DIVISION OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE DOLLAR



supplements the support of mission work done throughout the Annual Conference. Interests supported may be considered projects of the Annual Conference, and may be largely supported by mission funds.

On the Recommendation of the District Superintendent the Board may supplement the salary of pastors who serve charges that are unable to pay the full salary of a pastor. This enables the District Superintendent to provide pastoral supervision for churches that otherwise would be without a pastor. It also enables him to organize churches in new territory and supply them pastoral leadership until they are strong enough to become self supporting.

The Conference Mission Board also has the responsibility of administering funds used to build or help to build churches and parsonages within the Conference.

On approved applications these funds may be loaned or donated according to the needs of the situation and in accordance with the judgement of the Board.

The Board of Missions must submit to the Annual Conference, for its approval, its recommendations for distributions of the funds it handles.

Across the years past, the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension has been a great unifying force in our Conference. It has enabled Methodism to serve through a building program and trained leadership, vast numbers of people who would otherwise have been unreached by our church.

Young People Protest St. Francis Race Track

ELSEWHERE in this issue of the paper will be found a resolution, passed at a meeting of the Methodist Youth Fellowship of the Forrest City District, condemning the proposed race track in St. Francis County. These Young People come from the counties of St. Francis, Lee, Cross, Monroe, Crittenden, Woodruff and Phillips. They represents a cross section of the Methodist Young People of these counties of Eastern Arkansas.

In the resolution is also an appeal to other citizens of Eastern Arkansas citizens especially and to citizens of the state generally to register their protest to the building of a race track in St. Francis County.

The better citizenship of Arkansas will highly appreciate this position taken by our Young People in Eastern Arkansas and will appreciate also the high plane, "morally, spiritually and socially," on which they base their action. Realizing that they are not voting age, they appeal to the voting citizenship of the state to support their opposition to a race track in Eastern Arkansas.

Religion Gets A Boost

EACH year for the past several years during the month of November the cause of Religion and religious organizations is the point of emphasis in the advertising channels in American life. In newspapers, magazines, over the radio, on billboards and through other advertising media American citizens are reminded of the virtues of attending a church or synagogue and people are encouraged to support organized religion in a greater way. Those who have more than the average interest in seeing the cause of organized religion prosper are indebted to the officials of the national advertising concern, National Advertising, which is instrumental in giving Religion this annual boost.

Of course, the growth of the Kingdom is brought about by more than making Religion an acceptable part in the society. More than that, the prosperity of the Kingdom is dependent on more than a good "selling" job, even by those who have made a life's work of working in and for the church. But on the other hand every bit of assistance that will help to create a more favorable attitude to Religion and the church or synagogue should be welcomed and appreciated. The "Religion In American Life" series which is emphasized in advertising during November helps to do this very thing.

The truth of the matter is that church leaders have been altogether too cautious about using the various media which influence the public mind. Most church leaders realize the value of getting the story of their work to the public at large but most of them are content to let matters take their own course. Rather than run the risk of being labeled publicity hounds, these same leaders rarely ever get their story out to the very people that need it the most. It is very much like a preacher who is constantly urging in his preaching that the membership of the church ought to attend the services. The very people that should hear his exhortation are not there to hear it. The people who attend do not particularly need a great deal of emphasis at this point.

There is even now getting under way in this Episcopal Area a program of public relations which will help some at this point of selling Religion.

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

REV. H. C. MINNIS, pastor of the Danville Methodist Church, was elected president of the Ministerial Alliance at a recent meeting of the Alliance.

MRS. JAMES W. PEAHEY of Pine Bluff, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Wm. E. Brown of Monticello, who suffered an attack of polio on October 26 is a patient in Burge Hospital, Springfield, Mo.

THE BERRYVILLE MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE sponsored the union Thanksgiving service which was held in the Methodist Church. Rev. A. E. Webb of the Baptist Church, brought the sermon.

REV. ROY E. FAWCETT, executive secretary of the Board of Education of the Little Rock Conference, was guest preacher at the morning worship service of the First Methodist Church, Malvern, on Sunday, November 16. Rev. Van W. Harrell is pastor of First Church.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL at Carlisle has increased 50 per cent since October 1, or an average of over 100 a Sunday over the previous average. The previous attendance was about 215 and since October 1 it has been around 315. Rev. Curtis Williams is pastor.

WICK ANDERSON of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, spoke to the Methodist Men of the Sylvan Hills Methodist Church, North Little Rock, on Wednesday, November 19. A charter for the organization has been applied for from the Board of Lay Activities in Chicago.

DR. W. NEILL HART, pastor of the First Methodist Church, El Dorado, taught the course, "Home and Church Working Together", last week in four night classes in his church. The text book for the course, under the same title, was written by Dr. Hart.

RICHARD T. STEEL, of Conway, addressed the Methodist Men of the First Methodist Church, Texarkana, at the regular November meeting using as his subject, "Counting the Cost." Harry Robards is president of the organization.

REV. FRED ARNOLD, pastor of Hunter Memorial Methodist Church, Little Rock, was the preacher in evangelistic services at the Hawley Memorial Methodist Church of Pine Bluff last week. Wright Kelly, of Star City, had charge of the music. Rev. Clem Baker is pastor of Carr Memorial Church.

J. MILLER WILLIAMS, instructor in the Department of Chemistry at McNeese State College, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was the speaker at the evening service of the First Methodist Church, Lake Charles, on Sunday, November 23. Mr. Williams is a graduate of Hendrix College, Conway.

D. E. COOLEY, North Arkansas Conference Treasurer writes: "Our attention has been called to the fact that several churches in the North Arkansas Conference, including Danville, made payments that they expected to be included in the Treasurer's published report. We regret that these remittances were received after November 7, therefore, it was impossible to include them."

BISHOP AND MRS. PAUL B. KERN, after spending the fall at their cottage at Lake Oklawaha, North Carolina, have gone to Nashville where they will visit Mrs. Kern's sister. About December 1st they plan to go to Texas where they will spend the Christmas holidays with their son, Dr. J. C. Kern, at Burnet. Bishop Kern is scheduled to teach in the winter quarter of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

MISS MARJORIE BOWDEN, missionary to India, was a recent visitor in Fayetteville. She visited the University of Arkansas under the auspices of the Student Volunteer Movement and spoke before several student groups while there. She also spoke before the Wesley Foundation

group on Sunday morning. Miss Bowden, whose home town is Swifton, will leave for India in December where she will teach in one of the Mission Schools.

REV. L. R. SPARKS, pastor of Carthage, writes: "Our Methodist Youth Fellowship rendered an appropriate program on Sunday, November 16, in honor of our forty-eighth wedding anniversary. They presented congratulations and a valuable gift. Our work is progressing nicely and our people co-operate splendidly. All finances are well up. The Hendrix College quota is overpaid. A few important improvements are being made on the parsonage and our beautiful new church."

DR. J. W. WORKMAN, chaplain at Fort Roots, will be guest preacher at Sylvan Hills Methodist Church, on Sunday morning, November 30. Rev. Howard Cox, associate pastor of the First Methodist Church, North Little Rock, will preach at the evening service. The pastor, Rev. William Wilder, as chairman of the Conference Historical Commission, will be attending the dedication of a historical marker at the site of the first Methodist church in Arkansas, which was at Jessup.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN attended the semi-annual meeting of the Council of Bishops held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, on November 17-21. Plans were made for three churchwide movements, each of which will rate high in importance in Methodism's 1952-56 program. They are World Mission for Evangelism in 1953, a Crusade for a New World Order and an Emphasis on Methodist Youth in 1954-56. Bishop Martin was named on the general committee on Youth Emphasis.

THE SANCTUARY of the First Methodist Church of Gurdon is being redecorated with the following improvements: The altar, the choir loft and the main auditorium are being remodeled, new church furniture, carpeting and a stained glass window are being added. New lighting has been planned along with a central heating system and air conditioning. The work is expected to be completed by mid-December. Horace Cabe is chairman of the Finance Committee which estimates that the work will cost about \$10,000. Rev. R. O. Beck is pastor.

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH of Magnolia gave its church service on Sunday, November 16, to the observance of American Education Week. Laymen were in charge of the service with William Eckert delivering the main address at the morning hour. The Southern State College a Cappella Choir, under the direction of Robert Kaebnick, sang special numbers. E. M. Anderson presided over the service, and Dr. John Wilson led the responsive reading. C. Z. Couch, chairman of the Board of Education, was in charge of the offertory. Rev. Elmer L. Thomas is pastor.

A SPECIAL SERVICE, for the closing of the charter membership roll of the newly-organized El Dorado St. Luke Methodist Church, formerly known as the Woodlawn Heights Community Chapel, interdenominational, was held on Sunday morning, November 16, with the district superintendent, Dr. Connor Morehead, in charge, assisted by Dr. Neill Hart, pastor of the First Methodist Church of El Dorado, and the pastor of St. Luke's Church, Rev. Ralph Mann. Vantrease Memorial Church presented the communion set and E. R. Vansickle, in behalf of First Church laymen, presented the baptismal font and the new pulpit furniture. A number of charter members was enrolled.

THE second Annual Recreation Workshop, sponsored by the Board of Education of the Louisiana Conference, will be held in First Church, Alexandria, Louisiana, Thursday, December 4, through Saturday afternoon, December 6, according to announcement by the Dean of the Workshop, Rev. Henry A. Rickey. Rev.

Harold Hipps, associate minister of West Market Street Methodist Church, Greensboro, N. C., will lead folk games, party planning, party games, and program planning. Mr. Hipps was formerly a clown with Ringling Brothers Circus. A. C. Voran, of Centenary College, will lead the singing and conduct classes in song leading. Other staff members will round out an attractive program. The Dean writes that Arkansas people are invited. Registration is to be made with Rev. Bentley Sloane, Box 4156, Shreveport, and the first 100 from outside the Alexandria Area will be accepted. The registration fee of \$2.00 is to be paid on arrival at the Workshop.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES from Arkansas and Louisiana, Rev. Roy E. Fawcett of the Little Rock Conference, Dr. Ira A. Brumley of the North Arkansas Conference and Dr. Bentley Sloane of the Louisiana Conference, will be among the 104 Methodist ministers attending the bi-annual meeting of the executive secretaries of Regional Boards of Education to be held December 1-5 in Nashville, Tennessee. Coming from every state and Cuba, the secretaries will meet with staff members of the Methodist General Board of Education, which has its national headquarters in Nashville. They will discuss a two-year program of Christian education for all age groups in Methodist churches, and consult with editors of church school literature and directors of religious work at Methodist colleges. The 104 secretaries, appointed by their respective annual conferences, comprise the chief link between the general education board and 40,000 Methodist churches across the country.

RELIGION GETS A BOOST

(Continued from page 1)

ligion to the public. But our concern just now is not with the Conference or Area level. We have in mind what local church leaders, pastors and laymen, can do in their own situations locally to keep Religion and the Church in the public mind. The "Religion in American Life" series which we do appreciate can help us to see the real value of a continuing program of this sort on a local level.

THE BLIGHT OF RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

(Continued from page 1)

our religion in different forms of worship in our different churches. What it cannot and should not forgive is the egotistical, self-centered, religious bigotry practiced by members of some denominations in their attempt to unchristianize all who do not believe and worship as they do.

If it is not possible, under present conditions, for the members of the various denominations to unite in one church, they can at least recognize each other as Christians; if they cannot unite they can and should at least cooperate.

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HOLIDAYS AND HIGH MOMENTS

This week we dedicate a day to Thanksgiving. The words "holiday" and "holy day" stem from the same root. But in popular usage they have grown far apart.

Holidays are thought of in terms of what they free us from rather than what they link us to. They are days on which we do not have to work. Washington's Birthday, for instance, is a national holiday, but the multitudes do not give much thought to Washington. America has also set aside May 30 as Memorial Day. We close our places of business but not too many devote their time to honoring the dead. Thanksgiving Day is a peculiarly American holiday, but more attention seems to be paid to turkeys than to the Pilgrims and God.

Christmas and Easter are the two holy days of the Christian year and the Jews celebrate their holy days with similar devotion.

Instead of dwelling on the misuse of our holidays, let's think about how to preserve the value of life's high moments and red letter days throughout the year.

What does God do for us in our high hours? For one thing he refreshes the mind. Some years ago a London physician declared that there is a disease more devastating than tuberculosis or cancer. It is boredom. Our first reaction may be that the doctor overstated the case. Boredom is unpleasant, but hardly fatal. Well, fatal to what? To be sure not many deaths seem directly due to boredom. Not many become so tired of living that they take their own lives. It might, however, be revealing to compute, if it were possible, the effects of dull spirits and drab living actually lowering bodily health, and consequently shortening life.

Consider how many youth have turned to vice because virtue has seemed dull, how many marriage bonds have broken because home life was allowed to become drab. As Dr. Fosdick has reminded us, the feeling of commonplaceness is one of the besetting curses of daily living.

The sense of triviality dims enthusiasm. One American humorist, after trying to make his diary look important, says that he gave it up and began writing as his daily entry these words: "Got up, washed and went to bed."

Left to itself, daily living can so easily settle into dull routine. We need high moments and holidays to break the monotony. But a day off now and then will not do the trick. A red letter day on our calendars will not give a lasting glow. We need to have a refreshing mind which

comes from recreation through touch with the Creator.

God helps us to refresh our minds by keeping us interested in individual persons. During the war between the North and the South, Charles Sumner was a senator from Massachusetts. A learned man, he felt himself a bit above some of his colleagues in Washington. Also he was absorbed in his great plans for the abolition of slavery. One day he was invited by Julia Ward Howe (author of that inspired hymn "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") to meet some friends. He declined, saying in his top-lofty way: "Really Julia, I have lost all my interest in individuals."

"Why, Charles," she replied, "God hasn't got as far as that yet."

During the Thanksgiving season we will get together with families and friends. Let's not lose that personal touch. Let's give thanks for that wife who shares our burdens and thanks for our children and our fathers and mothers—yes, even thanks for the turkey. And let us thank God every day for his abundant love and protection.

Of course, if we are brought to the brink of death, then we give thanks for life. Capt. Edward Rickenbacker was, as you know, America's flying ace in the First World War. During the last war he flew as a passenger over the Pacific. The plane suffered engine trouble and the pilot and crew found themselves in life rafts in the surging waves. As the raft drifted aimlessly over the water, food became perilously low. Captain Rickenbacker prayed for help. The pilot of the ill-fated ship, who was in the same craft with Captain Eddie, pulled a salvaged Bible from his pocket and read from Saint Matthew 6:25: "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor ye for your body, what ye shall put on."

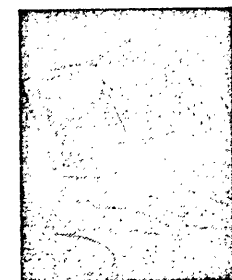
The next day a hungry gull zoomed down and landed on Rickenbacker's head. The gull's innards were removed for bait and the rest of the bird was apportioned for food.

After an experience like that, it is no wonder that every day in the quiet of his room, Eddie Rickenbacker offers thanks to God for his and his crew's deliverance.

A newspaper friend tells me of a valiant young flyer in the First World War. Three brothers were killed and despite family protests he enlisted for flight instruction. His heroism is a matter of record. He became an ace and was retired with numerous decorations. Like many of his comrades he found himself without a job. After diligent search he located a situation and hastened to tell my friend about it.

"I've landed a good job," he exclaimed. "These people are going to pay me \$50 a jump in a parachute. All I have to do is a 2,000-foot exhibition jump six times a week. I start on Thanksgiving Day and that was always my lucky day."

Why not make Thanksgiving Day our lucky day by starting the habit of daily giving thanks?



NEW INSIGHTS FROM THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION

By
DR. ROY L. SMITH

SUSPICIOUS OF THE MIRACLES

And when he had come to Jerusalem he attempted to join his disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe he was a disciple—Acts 9:26.

And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.—King James Version

We will have to be reasonable with those Jerusalem Christians. They had known Saul as a fanatical foe, running them down to earth like a beast of prey. There were probably those among the membership of the Church who were still nursing wounds that might never heal which had been inflicted upon them as a result of the young man's frenzy against the faith.

It is easy to understand how difficult they would find it to believe that a moral miracle had actually taken place within him. They had not been with him on the Damascus way; they had not witnessed the transformation which had overtaken him; they had not heard him preach with the power of the Holy Spirit. And they were very slow about receiving him into the Christian fellowship. Who can blame them?

But there is this disposition to doubt the miracles of grace which are worked inside the souls of men by the incoming of the Holy Spirit. Only God knows how many trophies have been lost because the Christian Church has been suspicious of the miracle that has actually attended its own preaching.

"I was never so sure of anything in my life as that something had happened to me, making me a new creature," he said, "but it

BUILDING PROGRAMS IN THE FT. SMITH DISTRICT

(Continued from page 3)

sanctuary building. The frame fellowship hall is actually the former Figure Five Methodist Church building which had been located several miles west of the City Heights section and which was removed to the City Heights location when its use in the Figure Five community had been terminated. The church building program was completed at a cost of \$8,000. Future expansion includes an additional educational building which will be added to the sanctuary building. The City Heights Building Committee included Ray Peagram, S. S. Wells, G. F. Swearington, and Rev. Felix Holland, City Heights pastor.

The St. John's Church, which until the conference year 1951-52 was the head of a circuit, is presently engaged in adding 3200 square feet of floor space to its church building at an approximate cost of \$15,000. The educational building is being erected immediately behind the present church plant, and will be of brick veneer, concrete and Hedite block construction. Construction of the new unit began shortly after the last annual conference session in June and is expected to be completed by early spring. The building will house most of the educational and social activities of the church, and with facilities now available in the present church plant will amply accommodate the St. John's congregation.

Much work has already been done in the present building. The sanctuary has new pews, pulpit furniture, new altar and choir arrangement, new doors, new windows, new nursery

was awfully hard to make the Church believe that I was a different man. As much as ten years after my conversion some of them were still saying, 'yes, we knew him way back when' . . . and that was enough to damn me."

"I think I could have made good if I had only had the help—just a little help—from some of the good women of the Church. God knows how I longed for encouragement, and he also knows how ready I was to do my best. But they could not believe I was any different." And that was why she backslid!

and a new Hammond organ. Other improvements include the complete redecoration of the sanctuary and the enclosing of the balcony, this space being converted to classroom space. The congregation borrowed \$10,000 from the General Board and the Conference Board and by the time of the completion of the program will have raised \$10,000 or more to finance the project. The St. John's Building Committee includes S. E. Smith, Leo Bennett, and F. L. Campbell. The Finance Committee is composed of Grace Putnam, J. N. Evans, Jr., and Gervas Lee. Rev. Robert Sessions is the pastor.

Progress in the physical improvement of the New Hope Church includes the provision of a new parsonage which was completed in time for occupancy at the beginning of this conference year. A residence recently built at another location was purchased and removed to the present site near the New Hope Church, and was renovated to meet present needs. The New Hope congregation has an investment of \$3500 in the parsonage, most of which is paid. The New Hope Church building, built during the pastorate of Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Jr., was completely freed of debt during the conference year 1950-51 during the pastoral administration of Rev. Robert Sessions when New Hope was on the St. John Circuit. The New Hope parsonage committee included Hal Brewer, Aud Daugherty, and D. Biggerstaff. Rev. Uriah Smith is the present New Hope pastor.

The Branch Methodist Church has recently spent \$2,000 modernizing the Branch parsonage, redecorating the interior and painting the exterior. The program also included the repainting of several of the parsonage rooms. Rev. J. E. Thomas is the Branch pastor.

On the Massard-Barling pastoral charge Rev. Vann Hooker pastor, the Barling congregation has recently spent \$1,500 in installing new pews, pulpit furniture and new hardwood flooring in the sanctuary. This serves many of the service personnel from nearby Camp Chaffee. At Massard new hardwood floors have been put in the charge parsonage, and the house has been completely refurnished at a cost of approximately \$1,200.

At Hartman, each one of the churches on the Hartman Charge, Mt. Zion, Spadra, Hays Chapel

(Continued on page 7)

THE DEVOTIONAL PAGE

REV. ROY I. BAGLEY, Editor

REALIZATION

Ride any road to ancient Rome
And thence back home again;
There you will find no king so
strong
As God in hearts of men.

Climb all the hills in classic Greece
To name each burning star;
No beauty there can bring a peace
Beyond you where you are.

Pace miles of Galilean shores,
Touch every tree Christ saw;
But he will be most dearly yours
In hot-white prayers of awe.

—Mims Thornburgh Workman,
in Church School

BECAUSE OF YOU AND ME

SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-45

VERSE FOR TODAY: And he brought him to Jesus. John 1:42

He was in the Kindergarten Department of the church school, and such a very small lad that one might suppose his influence to be very small indeed. His mother and father were fine Christian folk; God was very real to them, and the church held an important place in their lives. They did not, however, observe the custom of saying grace at mealtime.

It happens that each Sunday morning the very little people of our church school have a bite to eat. Before eating, they bow their heads to say "Thank you" to the Heavenly Father who gives all. One Sunday, when Mother and Father and Tommy sat down to the family meal, Tommy said, "Can't we say 'Thank you' like we do at Sunday school?" Mother and Father agreed that it would be nice. They bowed their heads, and a little child led them to the feet of God. Grace at meals is now the custom in that home, because of the influence of the tiniest member.

Sometimes we are tempted to say, "I have no influence." But this is not true. The extent of our influence is beyond our knowing. Members of our family, our friends, even people whose names we may never know, are helped or hindered in their Christian life, because of you and me.

PRAYER: Our Father, thou hast given to us a great responsibility in life. Strengthen us, that we may live that others may be led to thee. Give us the spirit of Christ and its winning power. This we ask in his name. Amen. —John F. W. Howell

THE OLD—THE NEW

We never outgrow the past; we grow out of it.

In a matter of hours and minutes, we end a decade and begin a new year.

One of our greatest needs now is to know what to keep from the past and what to throw away. Jesus said that he had not come to destroy the teachings of Moses and the prophets but to fill them full of new meaning. (Matthew 5:17-18)

Meditate for a few moments on past events of your life. Go to the very root of things and look at causes. Appraise the events very carefully. Try especially to discover

The Quiet Night

Grace Auld Crockett

WHAT is death but a quiet night of sleeping

All weariness forgotten, and all pain,
Our eyelids closed and shaken of their weeping,
Our bodies waiting strength to come again
We say good-night to our beloved, then turning,
Go through the shadowy hall and up the stair,
The little light goes out that has been burning,
We watch the stars beyond the window square,
Then, soft as nightfall on the meadow flowers,
Sleep comes and bears us dreamlessly away,
And rest is sweet though long or short the hours,
Until we waken, and again 'tis day,
With its bright glory, and its sudden splendor,
And, dazzled by the golden light that spills,
We will arise, all lithe and strong and slender,
And young again, to climb the golden hills

FALLEN TOWERS

"Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth." (Genesis 11:4)

"It doesn't make any difference what you believe so long as you are sincere", he said to the two visitors who were encouraging him to make a decision for Christ and His Church. He stuck to his declaration and did not make any move toward a commitment. Consider this position for a moment and decide whether it is firm enough to stand on. What if that was the only test that doctors made? Is that

their value for tomorrow.

Read again the concluding portion of the Sermon on the Mount, especially the illustration about houses being built on rock and sand. (Matthew 7:24-29) It takes a new meaning, perhaps, as we appraise the past and pray for the future.

This is the crisis moment. It is the end of all that has gone before and the beginning of all that is to come.

Base this hour on your religious faith. Found it on Christian principles. Let your resolutions and decisions be guided by the way of Jesus.

Then resolve: With God's help, I will live the Christian way with all the power of my master and Lord, and to act always in his spirit and in his name. Amen.—Jameson Jones—Power.

all that we want from him who is going to diagnose our troubles and prescribe for our physical cure? We admire the sincerity of a person as he practices medicine, but we want to see that sincerity exhibited in trying to learn more about the human body. We want him to be informed on all the recent discoveries. Is sincerity enough in the lives of national and international leaders? To be sure we want them to be sincere in seeking the solution to our problems but we want the assurance that they are using all their faculties to offer the best solution possible. Just to be sincere is hardly enough in any other interest in life; then, why take it as the sole criterion by which we judge our spiritual life?

We would certainly have no place for a doctor, teacher, or political leader who did not by his very actions show that he was deeply sincere. But sincerity alone as a test falls far short. Do we not ask that those who touch our lives not only be sincere but to use every means to be as well informed as possible? We want to feel that they are persistent in their inquiry; we want them to feel that there is much yet that they can learn.

This is the spirit that we find in the New Testament. Jesus said, "Learn of me". Here is an invitation

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Our Father, as we look at ourselves we realize we are not worthy to come to Thee in prayer; but we know that Thou hast revealed Thy love to us in Christ and only as we look to Him and believe in Him can we call ourselves children of Thine. We know we have not always been pleasing to Thee, but we believe when we come to Thee in prayer, we will always find forgiveness, pardon, love and strength. Thou knowest that we do not want evil to rule in our lives, and that sometimes we know not where to go or what to do and Thou knowest that we want Thy divine guidance always. We believe that if we will always follow Thy guidance and trust in Thee we will always come out victoriously. We pray that Thou will draw us closer together in a spirit of Christian love and understanding toward one another. In Christ's name and for His sake we pray. Amen.

—Mrs. G. Reynolds, Sheridan, Ark.

to use all the means at our disposal to become better acquainted with Jesus. Paul had that same thing in mind when he declared to Timothy, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15) There is every encouragement for sincerity but the proof of our sincerity is our willingness to dig deep to discover the great truths that are for us.

No one could question the sincerity of the men of Babel in going to all the trouble to build a tower to the heavens to make for themselves a name. It was hard work to bring the materials and build them one upon another. The tower fell! Something was wrong in the whole plan and the motive that set them upon the toilsome task.

A few questions that might help to be more intelligent in sincerity could be asked. For example does the sincerity that we propose to have glorify God, or does it lift the schemes of men? Is the controlling motive to build the Kingdom of God or is it to build a system of theology and enforce that system upon others? There are those groups which insist so much on their way being the only way that after awhile one gets the idea that it is not to the glory of God that they are so zealous as it is the imposition of their interpretation of the scripture on another. If the motive is to "make a name for themselves" their tower is tottering. On the other hand if their sincerity is guided by a genuine purpose to glorify God, then even though there are differences of opinion there can still be deep fellowship.

Another question pops up and that is, does the sincerity of my heart guide me toward the brotherhood of man or is my sincerity a divisive spirit that doctors my religious egoism? The strength of evil in the world today calls for a welding together of the forces of Christ. This may not be an organization that does away with the several groups in Christendom, but it will certainly

(Continued on page 15)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we are aware of the deterioration morally, spiritually, and socially which inevitably comes to any section or community where betting is conducted in connection with horse race-tracks, and

WHEREAS, it is our conviction that all the people of St. Francis County, eastern Arkansas, the state, and the adjoining states would be adversely affected by the erection of the proposed race-track in St. Francis County, and

WHEREAS, we are opposed to the sale of bids and the letting of a franchise by the racing commission, and

WHEREAS, we as young people do not have the opportunity in votes but must rely upon the adults, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship of the Forrest City District that our opposition be registered against the erection of such a race-track in our state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the citizens of eastern Arkansas and the state register their opposition with the proper authorities; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Arkansas, the Governor-elect of Arkansas, and be published in the press.

SIGNED BY:

The Methodist Youth Fellowship with members from St. Francis, Lee, Cross, Monroe, Crittenden, Woodruff, and Phillips Counties.

COMMUNISTS FREE F. OLIN STOCKWELL

A cablegram from Bishop Ralph A. Ward from Hongkong, China, informs the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church that the Rev. F. Olin Stockwell, Methodist missionary who had been a prisoner of the communists for 23 months had arrived by train in Hongkong on Monday (Nov. 17), having been freed by his captors. Despite the fact that part of the time Mr. Stockwell had been in solitary confinement, he appeared in good health, according to Bishop Ward.

Mr. Stockwell was a missionary in Chengtu, West China, when the communists overran that city. He could have gone out before the entering army, but elected to remain and attempt to carry on his work. Some months later, however, he was arrested on trumped-up charges and sentenced to prison. It is expected that he will return to the United States as soon as passage can be arranged.

A native of Perry, Oklahoma, Mr. Stockwell is a member of a Methodist family that has given missionaries to China, India, Burma, and Argentina, and a number of ministers to the United States. He was educated at Oklahoma City College, Ohio Wesleyan University and Garrett Biblical Institute. He was ordained to the ministry in Oklahoma. During his last furlough in the United States (1945-6) he made his home in Oberlin, Ohio.

UPPER ROOM BROADCASTS SCHEDULED

Nashville, Tenn. — More than 800 radio stations will broadcast a special holiday series of eight religious programs recorded by **The Upper Room**, daily devotional guide published here.

A 30-minute dramatic program, "Christmas is a Holy Day," will climax the series on December 25. The transcribed episodes are designed to start on Thanksgiving Day with a special program, "Let Us Give Thanks," followed by six 15-minute weekly broadcasts to introduce the Christmas feature.

Response of the more than 800 radio stations — including every state, Alaska and Hawaii — is the largest in the history of the Upper Room radio series, according to the Rev. J. Manning Potts, editor.

Production of the holiday series was under the direction of the Rev. Howard Ellis, staff member of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism.

Great hearts do not die; they continue to live in the hearts to which they have given courage and love and in other hearts to which these in turn give the same—Arthur Bryant, Illustrated London News.

Too much of our recreation might more accurately be termed "wreck-recreation."—Rev. R. W. Michel, Christian Advocate

BUILDING PROGRAMS IN THE FT. SMITH DISTRICT

(Continued from page 5)

and Hartman, took one of the rooms of the parsonage and redecorated and refurnished it, at an approximate cost of \$1,500. This cost did not include the cost of labor much of which was contributed by the members of the several churches. The project included the rearranging of several of the rooms. A current program is concerned with the addition of a large room to the parsonage by glassing in one of the house's porches. Each of the churches is assisting in this improvement. Rev. Earl Carter is the Hartman Ct. pastor.

At Lowe's Creek Methodist Church on the Branch Charge, an old church building was rebuilt and rock veneered to provide a beautiful building in the open country. A new entrance and several Sunday School rooms were also included in the program. A most worshipful atmosphere in the sanctuary was obtained by a careful arrangement of the furnishings, the altar, communion rail and a lighted cross \$3,000 was spent by the Lowe's Creek congregation in this program.

During the pastoral administration of Rev. O. M. Campbell at Ozark, approximately \$4,000 was spent in completely renovating and redecorating the church plant. Improvements included renovation of the kitchen with installation of new fixtures, new pulpit and choir arrangement, refinishing of sanctuary floor, full new carpeting in sanctuary aisles, new light fixtures in sanctuary, and a complete redecoration job in the sanctuary and adjoining prayer chapel. Rev. Charles McDonald is the present Ozark pastor.

What promises to be one of the most beautiful and complete church buildings is now under construction at Altus to replace the building which burned there in 1951. This little city, which was once the site of Hendrix College, has been able with some outside assistance to get underway a building program without the leadership of a regularly assigned pastor. In the summer months the congregation was without worship services, save as the District Superintendent was able to arrange appointments for it. In September with the cooperation of the North Arkansas Conference Board of Evangelism, Rev. E. J. Reaves, Conference Evangelist, was sent to Altus to conduct evangelistic services.

Before the series of services was concluded the congregation had determined that above all things a new church building must be built, and \$3,500 was raised to begin the construction. The District Superintendent was able, with the continued cooperation of the Conference Board of Evangelism and consent of two other District Superintendents who had engaged Brother Reaves for work in their districts, to continue Brother Reaves another two months at Altus to see the building program through. The building is now in the finishing stages of completion and is a standing testimony to the determination of a small group of people to erect a church building.

The building will have a total of 2500 square feet, its space being divided among a sanctuary, four classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen and restrooms. Of rock veneer construction, the building features much wood paneling, hardwood floors, a worshipful altar and pulpit rostrum arrangement and is complete with stained glass windows. The building is being built for about \$8,000 but this cash outlay hardly covers the actual cost since much of the labor has been donated and many of the materials have been secured at cost and below. Then too, Brother Reaves had directed in a large measure the actual construction work, effecting a further saving in construction costs. There is a comfortable five-room parsonage next door, presently unoccupied, but the District Superintendent has little worry about finding a pastor to move there — after the new church is completed, which won't be long now, maybe next Sunday.

At Spadra, on the Hartman Charge, is what the District Superintendent calls the greatest demonstration of voluntary labor of any building program in the Fort Smith District. The Spadra people are rather proud of their accomplishment in erecting this church and they have every right to be. An older building at another location was dismantled with usable lumber used in the construction of the new building. The new structure is of stone-veneer construction, has a sanctuary seating 150 worshippers, a youth chapel, fellowship hall, well-equipped kitchen and several classrooms. The sanctuary has oak furnishings including pews, pulpit furnishings and floors. It is soon to have oak paneling on the walls, several rooms in the structure being furnished in that manner. The cornerstone for the building was laid on Easter Sunday, 1951, the

building being completed several months later. More than \$12,000 was expended in its construction, not including much donated labor and materials. The building has a cooling system and is heated by a Butane gas system. A rather larger number of memorials have been placed in the building by members and interested friends of the church. The Spadra Building Committee is composed of Jack Felkins, Sidney King, Chic Morgan, Harold Bishop, Mrs. Jewel Sharp, and Mrs. M. C. Walker. Rev. Earl Carter is the pastor.

At Coal Hill some \$2,000 has been spent by that congregation in renovating and redecorating its sanctuary. The project had included straightening and lining up of the building, and the installation of a new floor, new ceiling and wallboard on the walls. Structural changes during the course of many years had necessitated the lining work. The building has also been provided with new doors and new entrances. Frank Frazier has served as chairman of the Coal Hill Building Committee. A loan which is about to be secured will make possible new windows, pews and rock or brick veneer on the outside to complete the renovation project.

U. E. M. IN ACTION

Nashville, Tenn.—Michigan Methodists won 16,010 new church members in a two-week campaign to set a new record in the denomination's series of evangelistic missions, it was announced here at national headquarters of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism.

With 703 churches participating, the statewide campaign netted 10,803 commitments on "profession of faith" and 5,207 through reinstatements or transfers, it was reported by the Rev. Dr. Harry Williams, director of the board's Department of United Evangelistic Missions. This surpassed the previous high of 13,702 commitments recorded in 1950 during a similar mission in the Syracuse, N. Y., episcopal area.

The Michigan mission ended November 9 with mass meetings throughout the Detroit area. It was the 49th in a nationwide series of metropolitan and regional evangelistic campaigns initiated by the Methodist Church three years ago. Under way now are state-wide missions in Ohio and Kentucky. The series will be climaxed in 1953 by American Methodism's participation in the world-wide simultaneous campaign.

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NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

By Ira A. Brumley

Arkansas Valley Training School

The Arkansas Valley Area Training School was held November 17-19, with three courses being offered as follows:

How to Teach in the Church School, Robert Paul Sessions.

Christian Beliefs, Paul M. Bumpers.

A. Preface to the Bible, Ira A. Brumley.

This was the first time that such a program has been carried out in the Hartman Church. The school was for Lamar, Clarksville, Alix, Hartman, Altus, and Ozark Charges.

Despite the fact that the school opened Monday night in the midst of the hardest rainfall in many months in that section, 67 people attended the opening night. The attendance on Tuesday night was very good and on Wednesday night there were 83 persons present for the closing session.

Much of the success of the school was due to the leadership given by the pastors, Charles McDonald, Earl Carter, and Paul Bumpers, together with the Church School Superintendents of those three charges.

The general interest and enthusiasm in the school is seldom equaled by other schools and never surpassed.

Paragould Area School

The Paragould Area School for the churches of Greene County is to be held at First Methodist Church, Paragould, December 1-3, with Rev. S. B. Wilford serving as Dean of the School. The following courses are to be offered:

How to Understand Children, Mrs. W. A. Wooten.

Teaching Seniors and Older Youth, Harold Spence.

What it Means to be a Christian (Youth Only), J. T. Byrd.

A Preface to the Bible, Ralph Hillis.

Samual P. Auslam of Green Forest has recently been certified as Dean for training schools.

Harold Spence of Jacksonville has recently been certified for the two courses on Teaching: How to Teach in the Church School and Ways of Teaching.

A one-unit training school is being planned for Mayflower, to be held December 7-9.

Church Schools Show Gains

We are reporting additional church schools showing gains: Marshall, 3; Judsonia, 1; Mt. Pleasant (Quitman Charge), 7; Bald Knob, 8; Rose Bud, 14; Macedonia, 3; Walnut Ridge, 61; Valley View (Harrison Charge), 3; Kensett, 6; Austin, 4; Whitehall, 1; Pocahontas, 6; Biggers, 13; Williford, 5; Piggott, 31; Oak Grove (Maynard Charge), 11; Dyess, 46; Huntington Avenue, 18; Wesley Memorial, Blytheville, 22; Farm Hill (Cherry Valley Charge), 43.

Unreached Masses

The report of the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church indicates that there are approximately 34,330,000 children in the United States, with 27,464,000 of

TRAINING SCHOOL AT PONCHATOU LA CHURCH

The Methodist Churches of Hammond and Ponchatoula with the Wesley Chapel and Springfield Charges held a Training School for Church School workers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17, 18 and 19.

The following courses were taught: Adults at Work, taught by Rev. George Dameron, Pineville; Planning for Children in the Church, taught by Miss Elizabeth Workman, Conway, Arkansas, and The Methodist Youth Fellowship, taught by Miss Lillian Hay, director of the Southeastern Louisiana College Wesley Foundation, Hammond.

these children unreached by any church school program.

It is estimated that there are 26,618,000 youth in The United States, with 21,294,000 of this number of youth unreached by any church school program.

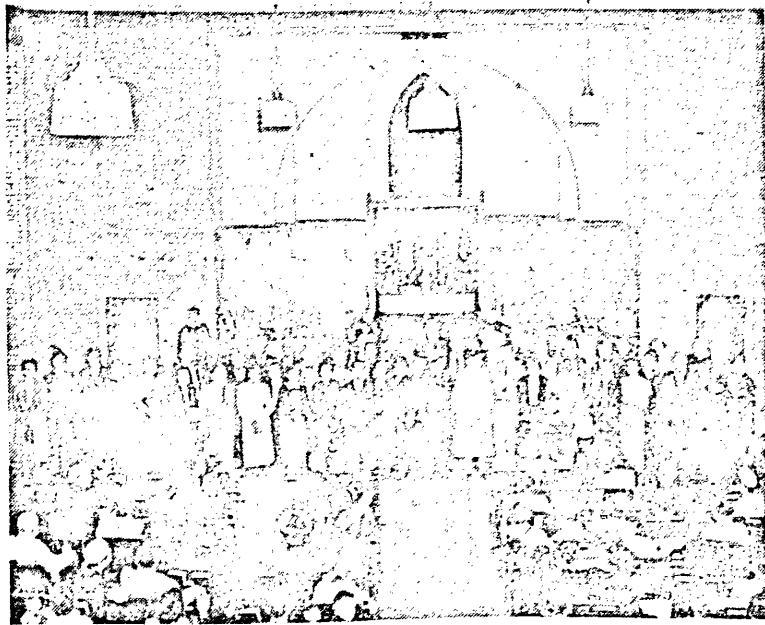
It is estimated that there are 90,290,000 adults in the United States, with approximately 72,232,000 of these adults unreached by any church school.

Thus it is estimated that there is a total of 120,990,000 people in The United States unreached by any church school program.

We often hear that more than half of the people in The United States belong to some church, but what does a name on a church roll mean if people are not growing in their understanding of the Christian faith and in Christian action?

There are many thousands of people within the territory of the North Arkansas Conference unreached by any program of Christian training. Have you checked up to see how many of these unreached people are within reach of your church school?

GARDNER HAS FINE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING SCHOOL



The group standing around the altar represents a portion of the membership of Gardner Memorial Methodist Church, North Little Rock who received credits at the recent Little Rock Training School held at the First Methodist Church. The pastor, the Rev. Irl Bridenthal, stands

"THE CHURCH WORKING WITH ADULTS"

Nashville, Tenn.—Because people are past sixty is no reason why they shouldn't have a lot of fun. But for one cause or another, until the past few years very little provision had been made by the churches for the recreation of older adults.

The Adult Department of the General Board of Education has pioneered in this field, and the interest shown in recreation for this age-group throughout the Church has

been due in large measure to promotion on the part of the department.

Last summer there were thirty-four conference-wide meetings for older adults, in which a large block of time was devoted to recreational activities. This is a fine increase since 1948 when only five conference wide meetings were held for this age-group.

Increasingly, too, local churches are organizing classes, clubs and groups in which recreation for older people play a prominent part, it was said by Miss Virginia Stafford of the Adult Department Staff, who has responsibility for work with older adults. No program of a local church is complete until the recreation needs of these older folk are met, she stated.

Older adults like to do about the same things in the way of recreation as any other group—singing, games, creative hobbies, and crafts. Special and birthday parties, story-tellers' conventions and hymn sings are good. Many churches are setting aside special rooms for such activities throughout the week, with Woman's Society of Christian Service and church school leaders serving on hostess committees and furnishing transportation.

Progress is being made on a collection of materials for older adults' recreation, and a part of the Leadership Education course, "The Church Working with Older Adults," is devoted to recreation for this age-group, according to Miss Stafford.

MISSIONARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Nashville, Tennessee — Methodist children will get a strong dose of missionary education through their story papers in January, according to Miss Mary Edna Lloyd, editor of Children's Publications. Both the Primary and Junior story papers will carry stories, games, and pictures about children in Africa. These materials will greatly enrich the missionary units included in the regular church school lesson materials.

In the Primary story paper, *Pictures and Stories*, there will be a three-part story about the friendship of a missionary's son and a boy in the Congo—"Tonga and Jack" by Esma Rideout (Mrs. Newell) Booth, with illustrations by Iris Beatty Johnson; simple directions for two games from the Congo with illustrations by Edith Cummings; and a story about a boy in Liberia, by Charles Britt and illustrated by Janet Smalley.

In the Junior story paper, *Trails for Juniors*, there will be a three-part Congo story, "Tembo and Maruwa" also by Mrs. Booth, with illustrations by Kurt Wiese as well as a picture spread on Africa, reviews of books about Africa, several African folk tales, games, and two fun-to-make articles.

These story papers may be ordered as a part of church school literature. *Pictures and Stories* costs only 20c for thirteen issues, and *Trails for Juniors* is only 25c a quarter, less than two cents per week.

BISHOP MOORE CALLS CHURCH IN EUROPE 'VALIANT'

CHRISTIANITY and the Church are "holding their own with remarkable vitality" even in the Russian zones of Europe, Methodist Bishop Arthur J. Moore of Atlanta declared. Bishop Moore, returning from his 22nd crossing of the Atlantic Ocean and a mission which took him to Methodist conferences over central Europe and North Africa, said: "The church in Europe may not be leading a great victorious march, but it is fighting valiantly. Its courage and spirit of sacrifice often puts our own church to shame." Even in East Germany, the Methodist leader reported, Christian groups, while constantly watched by the Communists, are not under a heavy hand and churches are crowded as a religious revival is manifested. The bishop, traveling in Switzerland, Yugoslavia, England, France, Belgium, Austria, and Africa, noted that "national animosities are lessening, tensions and bitterness slowly being dissipated as travel and the mingling together of people from different countries shrinks our world."

Pastor of Little Brown Church to Retire

The Rev. Fred L. Hanscom, 82-year-old pastor of the famous Little Brown Church in the Vale, will retire from the ministry this month. In his 2½ years at the Little Brown Church, Mr. Hanscom has married almost 10,000 couples. The brides and grooms have come from all over the country. Many have returned to have their children baptized by Mr. Hanscom. In the church hangs a portrait of Dr. William S. Pitts, a Fredericksburg physician, who wrote the hymn when visiting in the village of Bradford. Cooperative efforts of the people of Bradford built the little church between 1860 and 1864. Although the village is virtually non-existent now, the Little Brown Church has become a mecca for brides and grooms.

Businessmen Ask Sermons On Religious Christmas Theme

Ministers of Huntington, W. Virginia, have been asked by the Junior Chamber of Commerce to make "Let's Put Christ Back Into Christmas" the theme of their sermons on Nov. 30. Letters asking the ministers to cooperate in the project were

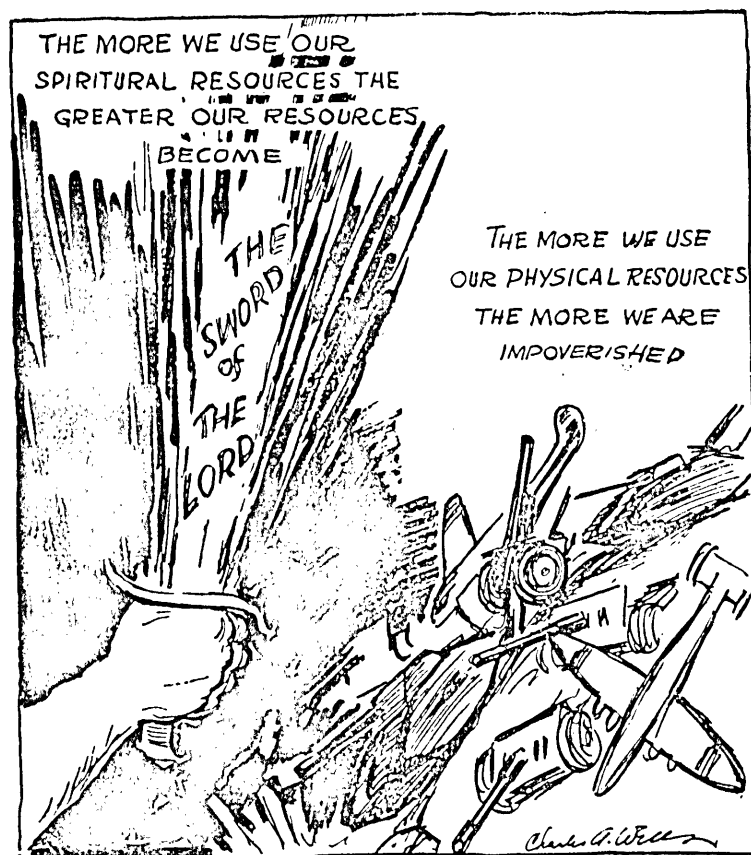
mailed by Ed Ward and Frank Bailey, co-chairmen of the Jaycee's Christmas activities committee. Meanwhile, more than 20,000 cards urging the same theme are being distributed throughout the city by the committee. The letter to the ministers said that "the real meaning of Christmas is too often overlooked."

School Superintendent Encourages Church Attendance

If 75 per cent of the 1,218 pupils of Greensburg High School, Indiana will attend church for four consecutive Sundays they may have an organ at the school. Gerald E. Alexander, city school superintendent, made the offer. He said the funds were available from an Iowa farm which had been bequeathed to provide improvements for the school. The pupils had asked for an electric organ. Mr. Alexander offered to use the funds for this purpose if the youngsters would attend church regularly.

Clergyman Suspended by Argentine Gov't. Named Santiago Bishop

A Methodist clergyman who was suspended two months ago by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Cults has been elected bishop of the Church's Santiago area. He is the Rev. Julio



Manuel Sabanes, a Uruguayan and former pastor of Central Methodist church in Buenos Aires. He was elected to a four-year term as bishop at the Methodist Latin-America Central Conference meeting in Santiago, Chile. In September, Mr. Sabanes, who is 55, was barred from carrying out his ministry in Buenos Aires on the ground that he had been critical of the Peron regime in a sermon last February at Mardel Plata, Argentina's popular seaside resort.

Schedules Methodist Evangelistic Convocation

A World Methodist Convocation on Evangelism will be held June 26-28, 1953, in Philadelphia, it was an-

nounced at Chicago by a special committee of the Council of Bishops. The committee, which drew up plans for the convocation, said the meeting will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, of Philadelphia, president of the Methodist Council of Bishops, who presided at the planning committee's sessions, said the convocation is part of the worldwide evangelistic program authorized by the denomination's 1952 General Conference. Bishop Corson said more than 3,500 delegates from all parts of the United States and representative leaders from Methodist groups overseas, are expected to attend the convocation next summer

JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL ORGANIZES

THE REV. DR. MARSHALL T. STEEL, pastor of Highland Park Methodist Church, Dallas, Tex., was elected chairman of the South Central Jurisdictional Council of The Methodist Church when the group organized for the new quadrennium at a meeting in Dallas Nov. 12. He succeeds Bishop H. Bascom Watts of Lincoln, Nebr.

Praised highly for his leadership and re-elected for another quad-



(l to r) Rev. E. H. Hook, Fayetteville, presents the interests of Western Methodist Assembly to Jurisdictional Council; others include Mrs. E. D. Galloway, Hope, secretary of Council, Dr. Marshall Steel, Dallas, Chairman of Council; Dr. Paul D. Womeldorf, Oklahoma City, Executive Secretary of Council.

rennium was the Rev. Dr. Paul D. Womeldorf of Oklahoma City, who has served as executive secretary since 1944.

Representing the 1,778,347 Methodists in the eight-state jurisdiction, the council took stock of its activities during the past quadrennium and

adopted forward-looking goals for the 1952-'56 period.

Other officers elected were: Rev. Dr. Frank C. Tucker, St. Louis vice chairman; and Mrs. E. D. Galloway of Hope, Ark., secretary. T. Russell Reitz, Manhattan, Kans., layman, was re-elected treasurer of the jurisdiction when the jurisdictional conference was held in Wichita in June.

Meeting simultaneously during the Dallas session of the Council, the Commission on Finance for the jurisdiction elected Rev. G. Alfred Brown of Ft. Worth, Tex., as chairman; Rev. Orbin Turner, El Paso, Tex., vice chairman; and Rev. Virgil D. Morris of New Orleans, secretary.

The jurisdictional council set a goal of a three per cent net increase each year in church membership. If achieved during the quadrennium, this would result in 218,264 net gain in membership—almost double the actual gain of 116,761 during the past quadrennium.

Special emphasis will be given to stewardship, and Dr. E. Lamon Geissinger, associate secretary of the General Board of Lay Activities in Chicago, was present to outline plans for area-wide programs of stewardship training.

Training schools for supply pastors and members of the Rio Grand conference will be continued under the auspices of the council.

Other specific jurisdictional projects include a survey school just held at Oklahoma City, a town and country conference slated for next January a conference for adult class officers and teachers set for Tulsa next Oct. 17-20, and a general convocation of the jurisdiction to be held sometime during the third year of the quadrennium.

The jurisdiction will operate on an annual budget of \$85,620, with \$10,750 set aside toward the expenses of holding the quadrennial jurisdictional conference. The annual budget item for the operation of the council is \$27,500, with the balance of the fund earmarked for the work of the jurisdictional boards and their projects.

Bishop Dana Dawson of Topeka, Kans., presided at the opening session, and Bishop Charles C. Seaceman of Dallas, led the devotions.

Named to the executive committee were the officers and the following: Rev. Dr. Guy M. Hicks, Shreveport, La.; Frank Greathouse, Rogers, N. M.; Rev. Dr. E. Wesley Perry, Omaha, Nebr.; Rev. Dr. D. L. Landrum, Palestine, Tex.; Dr. W. W. Parker, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Rev. Dr. J. Russell Throckmorton, Hutchinson, Kans.; and J. M. Willson, Floydada, Tex.



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



IRENE'S THANKFULNESS

"TOMORROW is Thanksgiving Day, and here I haven't a thing to be thankful for!" Irene spoke crossly.

"Tut, tut, my child," spoke up Irene's dear old white-haired grandmother. "And hasn't thee a good home and a dear father and mother?"

"And," the old lady went on, "shouldn't thee give thanks to God for these blessings?"

Brown-eyed Irene shrugged her shoulders.

"Oh, grandmother," she said, "you don't understand me. Of what good is a father and a mother when they are called away from home on Thanksgiving Day?"

Just then the door opened and a pretty young lady entered the room.

"Oh, Aunt Ruth!" cried out Irene joyfully, "is today your day off?"

Aunt Ruth was one of the nurses in the big hospital in the city where Irene lived. Every half-holiday was spent at Irene's home.

Aunt Ruth shook her head.

"No, Irene, I must go right back. I came home for some directions I left here."

Noticing the disappointed look which went over Irene's face at these words, Aunt Ruth said: "But, Irene, I wonder if you would like to come over to the hospital for a while and visit with little Alice Mason."

"Alice Mason, who is she?" asked Irene curiously.

"She is the light of Ward 2, the dearest and bravest little girl", answered Aunt Ruth.

Aunt Ruth and Irene were soon at the hospital. Aunt Ruth took Irene to Ward 2 immediately.

Irene gave a quiet little "Oh!" as she entered the room. There, on a little white cot, lay a tiny girl with eyes bandaged. The little girl called

out a greeting as she heard the two enter the room.

Aunt Ruth left Irene with Alice while she went to her work. Irene and Alice were soon busily talking. Irene learned that Alice's parents were dead, having died two years ago, and that she made her home with her grandparents. She heard of the accident that left Alice blind in both eyes. Alice would never again be able to open her eyes to this world's beauty—never be able to see the beautiful sunsets, the beautiful flowers, the rainbow, the blooming trees in the springtime and many other gifts of God. Suddenly Alice surprised Irene by saying, "Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. Aren't you happy? I am; I have so many things to be thankful for."

"You!" exclaimed Irene. "What do you mean, Alice?"

Irene was very much surprised to hear that a girl in the condition that Alice was in, with no hopes of ever being able to see again, could be thankful.

Alice smiled happily.

"The terrible pains in my eyes do not come so often; people are so kind to me here; I will be able to go to grandmother's soon; and now I have you to be thankful for."

Irene looked surprised. To think that a girl in Alice's condition could be thankful for anything.

"Irene, what are you thankful for?" asked Alice.

Irene hung her head. She was ashamed of herself in the presence of this little blind child, who was so thankful of her conversation with her grandmother.

"I don't know," she answered in a low voice.

"Oh, Irene," cried Alice, "and you can see, and have a dear father and mother—parents who can take you in their arms and to whom you can

go when you are in sorrow and trouble."

Up came Irene's curly head.

"You have shown me the many things to be thankful for, Alice, and I thank you," she said.

When Aunt Ruth entered the room again she found Irene and Alice laughing and talking together and having a good time.

"Aunt Ruth," cried out Irene, "may I come over tomorrow and spend Thanksgiving Day with Alice? I think I can enjoy myself so much here, and I am sure Alice will, too."

"Yes, dear," answered Aunt Ruth.

"And I'll bring my story books and read to you, Alice," Irene promised.

When Irene reached home, she went at once to her grandmother and surprised her by saying, "Forgive me, grandmother; I have so many things to thank God for; and grandmother, you are one of them. I wish you would forgive me for what I said yesterday. Since I went to the hospital with Aunt Ruth I feel different."

Tears filled grandmother's eyes and trickled down her cheeks onto the blue shawl thrown around her shoulders. Drawing Irene into her arms, she whispered softly, "God bless thee, dear child; and I thank Thee, heavenly Father, for her."—Exchange.

MY THANKS

I thank Thee, Father, for my home
And for the clothes I wear,
For food and friends, for Dad and Mom
And for their loving care.

Help me to be a thoughtful child,
Friendly and always gay,
I thank Thee for Thy many gifts
On this Thanksgiving Day.

—A.E.W.



THANKSGIVING

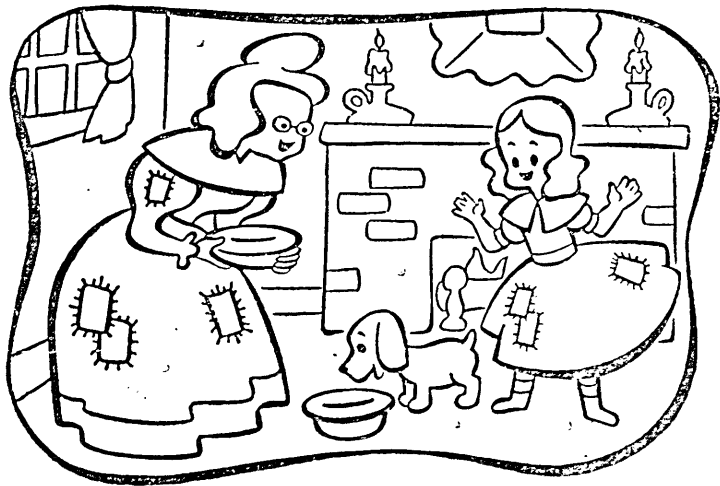
We thank Thee, God, for things to eat,
For fruit and bread, for eggs and meat;
For milk that fills our shiny mugs,
For bread and tables, chairs and rugs.
We thank Thee, God for pillows deep,
For blankets under which we sleep;
For windows through which we look,
And for the pictures in our book.
We thank, Thee, God, for a place to play;
For music that we hear each day;
For pans and brushes—soapy foam,
For everything that makes a home.

—Author Unknown

THE BIBLE

We have a blessed book,
We read from day to day
It teaches us what Jesus said,
And how to live and pray
We learn to be good children,
At church, at school, at play
And follow in His teachings,
As we live from day to day.

—Naomi Wacaster, Ozark

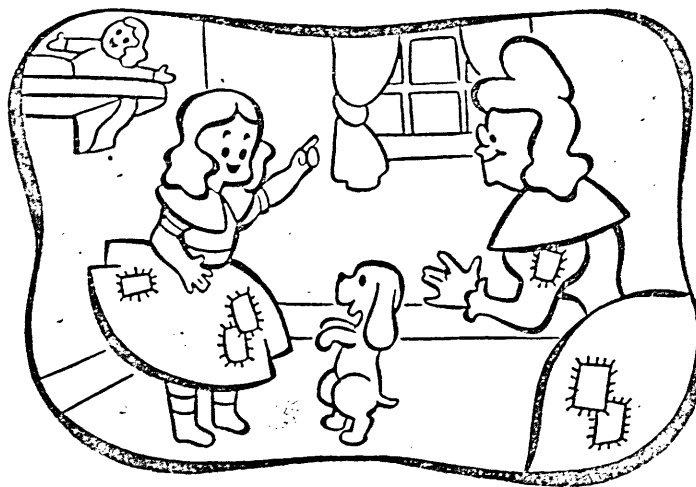


ANN AND THE LITTLE PUPPY PART 6

"Let's Name Him Bobby!"

"Oh, Grandma!" cried Ann as she entered the little cottage where she lived, "I found this poor little puppy, almost frozen!" And she showed the little dog to her grandmother. The kind old lady quickly warmed a saucer of milk and put it on the floor. The puppy sniffed at it and began to lick it up, slowly at first,

then faster and faster, his little tail wagging. "May we keep him, Grandma? May we . . . please?" The old lady smiled. "Why not?" she said. Ann jumped for joy. She had forgotten all about her loss of the money. "Let's name him Bobby," she said. And Bobby's tail wagged even faster.



PART 7

Bobby Learns Fast

Bobby quickly became part of the little household. He would romp and play with the bright pieces of cloth left over from making doll clothes. He learned to sit up, and beg, to roll over, to jump and bark on command. He would welcome Ann home

each day by barking excitedly. At night he slept on the foot of Ann's bed; he would wake her each morning by licking her face. Ann made a little leash for him for walks. Bobby loved the little girl and her grandmother. But he loved Ann best.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. EWING T. WAYLAND, Editor

LOUISIANA WELCOMES MISS GERHART

This week the Louisiana Conference has welcomed Miss Lydia Garhart, Field Worker for the Department in Home Fields, who will spend the following ten days visiting each district and speaking, in addition to meetings of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild, to two District Conferences.

Miss Gerhart has been of great help in her iteneration throughout the South Central Jurisdiction, and with her vast experience in the work of her church, she will be one of the outstanding visitors to Louisiana this year.

- Nov. 25— Arcadia — Ruston District Woman's Society 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 2— Blackwater — Annual District Conference, Baton Rouge, District 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 2— Opelousas — Alexandria District Guild 7:30 p. m.
- Dec. 3— Bunkie — Annual District Conference, Alexandria District 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 4— Shreveport — Shreveport District Guild 7:00 p. m.
- Dec. 5— Noel Memorial Methodist Church, Shreveport — Shreveport District Society 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 7— Monroe — Monroe District Guild
- Dec. 8— First Methodist Church, West Monroe, Monroe District Society 9:00 a. m.
- Dec. 9— First Methodist Church, Lake Charles — Sub-District Meeting, Lake Charles District Society 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 10— Crowley — Sub-District Meeting, Lake Charles District Society 10:00 a. m.
- Dec. 11— First Methodist Church, New Orleans — New Orleans District Society 10:30 a. m.
- Dec. 11— Rayne Memorial, New Orleans — District Guild 7:00 p. m.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT BOARD

Eleven women of the Executive Board of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Monticello District met in the Methodist Church, Monticello, Thursday, November 6th, for a luncheon meeting with Mrs. J. R. Echols acting as hostess.

Mrs. T. S. Lovett, Conference President, and Mrs. Louis Wilson Edgerington, Conference Secretary of Missionary Personnel, were guests for the day.

Mrs. I. A. Jaynes of Wilnot opened the meeting with a very timely devotional.

The District President, Mrs. Leslie Jeffress, presided over the business session.

The following women answered roll call and gave reports on the work being done to promote the work of her office.

Mrs. Leslie Jeffress, President; Mrs. L. T. Sandborn, Vice-President; Mrs. J. R. Echols, Promotion Secretary; Mrs. DuVal Purkins, Recording Secretary; Mrs. A. B. Cone, Treasurer; Mrs. Ralph Clayton, Children's Work; Mrs. J. H. Everett, Status of

WORLDWIDE BIBLE READING — THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS, 1952

*Book of books, our people's strength,
Statesman's, teacher's, hero's treasure,
Bringing freedom, spreading truth,
Shedding light that none can measure;
Wisdom comes to those who know thee,
All the best we have we owe thee.*

*Thank we those who toiled in thought,
Many diverse scrolls completing:
Poets, prophets, scholars, saints,
Each his word from God repeating;
Till they came, who told the story
Of the Word, and showed His glory.*

*Praise we God, who hath inspired
Those whose wisdom still directs us;
Praise Him for the Word made flesh,
For the Spirit which protects us.
Light of Knowledge, ever burning,
Shed on us Thy deathless learning.*

—Percy Dearmer

FINANCIAL REPORT — LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE SECOND QUARTER—1952-53

Balance brought forward	\$ 3,058.27	Credit on Pledge:	
Undirected Pledge to		W. S. C. S.	\$14,094.79
Missions:		W. S. G.	1,830.65
RECEIPTS:		Total Credit on Pledge	15,925.44
W. S. C. S.	\$12,725.74	Youth Fund	544.25
W. S. G.	1,449.38	Child. Service Fund	37.81
Projects:		Total Credit on	
W. S. C. S.	411.01	Appropriations	\$16,507.50
W. S. G.	326.27	Week of Prayer	\$ 1,926.17
Orlene McKimney	602.47	Foreign Supplies	124.95
Wanda Stahley	551.13	Home Supplies	865.20
Conference Rural Work	308.00	Supplementary	270.00
Special Memberships:		Total to Division	\$19,693.82
Honorary Baby		Other Disbursements:	
W. S. C. S. (19)	95.00	Administrative Expense	156.71
W. S. G. (1)	5.00	Printing & Mimeographing	625.10
Adult Life		Cultivation Fund:	
W. S. C. S. (9)	225.00	W. S. C. S.	613.15
W. S. G. (2)	50.00	W. S. G.	111.90
In Remembrance Gifts	49.50	Student Loan Fund	133.45
Little Rock Meth. Coun.	329.20	Alcohol Education Fund	165.45
Credit on Pledge:		Jurisdiction Cult. Fund	430.39
W. S. C. S.	\$15,297.05	Car for Rural Work	
W. S. G.	1,830.65	Georgia Daily (Camp	973.45
Total Credit on Pledge	17,127.70	work)	42.86
Youth Fund	544.25	Itineration of Mrs.	
Children's Service Fund	37.81	Landrum	52.50
Total on Appropriations	\$17,709.76	Interview for rural worker	50.48
Cash for Supplies:		Regional Youth meeting	44.50
W. S. C. S.	796.65	Administrative Board	
W. S. G.	193.50	meeting	32.48
Cultivation Fund:		Rent on safety box	14.40
W. S. C. S.	613.15	Love gift to Miss Busch	10.00
W. S. G.	111.90	Office Expense—	
Week of Prayer:		colored worker	25.00
W. S. C. S.	1,834.77	Other expenses	28.28
W. S. G.	91.40	Total Disbursements	\$23,203.92
Student Loan Fund:		Balance Nov. 15, 1952—\$3,088.20	
W. S. C. S.	133.45		
Alcohol Fund	165.45		
E. T. W. Fund	175.28		
Other Receipts:			
W. S. C. S.	24.55		
W. S. G.	.40		
Total Receipts:			
W. S. C. S.	\$19,622.41		
W. S. G.	2,227.85		
Total Receipts from			
Districts	\$21,850.26		
Other Receipts:			
Supply check for			
4th Quarter	776.75		
Rural Work	300.00		
Refunds	36.84		
Taylor			
Endowment Fund	270.00		
Total Receipts	\$23,233.85		
Add Balance—Total Cash	\$26,292.12		
C.S.R. & L.C.A. reported	\$13,269.66		
DISBURSEMENTS:			
To Division:			
Undirected Pledge to			
Missions:			
W. S. C. S.	\$10,906.29		
W. S. G.	1,775.65		
Projects—W. S. C. S.	2,669.00		
Special Memberships:			
W. S. C. S.	320.00		
W. S. G.	55.00		
In Remembrance Gifts—			
W. S. C. S.	49.50		
Conference Work	150.00		

Women; Mrs. Booth Hope, Literature & Publication; Mrs. I. A. Jaynes, Student Work; Mrs. T. F. Key, Wesleyan Service Guild; Mrs. C. D. Cade, Christian Social Relations. The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Lovett.—Reporter

WEEK OF PRAYER OBSERVED

Leachville Woman's Society and Guild joined together October 28 in an evening meeting to close the Week of Prayer observance, under the leadership of Mrs. W. R. Mooring and Mrs. Horace Mooring.

A large candle, representing Jesus, and smaller candles representing the training schools particularly remembered at this time, were lighted by Mrs. R. E. L. Bearden, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. T. A. Kennett, Mrs. DeFries, Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. H. Selby and Mrs. B. Selby.

Music for the meeting was furnished by Mrs. Norman Kennett, Mrs. Bill Cruse, and Mrs. Roy E. Dawson.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Mrs. Horace Mooring.—Mrs. T. A. Kennett.

On October 30 the Vivian Woman's Society met at the church at 10:00 a. m. for their Week of Prayer program. As Miss Patsy French played soft music, the Rosa Circle built the worship center, which was made of the open Bible with one candle on the right side encircled with ivy which represents the One Christ. On a poster the gold wreath meant service of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Mrs. Bill Powdrill was assisted in giving the meditations by: Mrs. McEachern, Mrs. K. G. McDowell, Mrs. Tom Pardue, Mrs. J. H. Griffin, Mrs. C. H. Pardue, and Mrs. Lawrence. Special Music was given by Miss Lynette Oxford and Mrs. L. A. Johnson.

Mrs. C. M. Bertrand told of the projects to which the money would be sent.

Lunch was served at noon and a large number of members attended.

Mrs. W. E. Lawhorn was in charge of the observance of Week of Prayer at the Manila Methodist Church, November 4, when an all-day meeting was held. Meditations, given by Mrs. Claud Lancaster, Mrs. Lee Cate and Mrs. Bill Brown, were closed with a special poem "Light", written by Larna Horner, May 1, 1952, shortly before her accidental death in June. This poem has become a light to countless hearts in darkness, a power to many, a comfort to friends and loved ones and an inspiration to the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The music which gave such assistance to this program was given by Miss Margaret Hart, Mrs. Grover Snider and Miss Peggy Bacon.

In the afternoon session glimpses of the projects to be helped were given by Mrs. Vardiman Osborne and Mrs. Phil Benson.

A memorial was given for Mrs. Mamie Hutton by Mrs. C. H. Ashabranner. Mrs. Mike Thieme read a letter of thanks to the Society written by Mrs. Hutton shortly before her death, for making her "Woman of the Month."

In an impressive dedication at the close of the day, the women placed their offering on the altar and were led in a prayer of dismissal by Mrs. Lawhorn.—Mrs. W. E. Lawhorn.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The first annual Shrubbery Sale to be held by members of the St. Paul's Woman's Society, Monroe, was acclaimed a great success by

(Continued on page 15)

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

GRIFFIN MEMORIAL TO BUILD NEW SANCTUARY

Methodism in Paragould began with the organization of the First Methodist Church in 1883. At this time Paragould was a small town rapidly growing into a city. Not only did it extend westward, but soon covered a large territory east of the two railroads — the Cotton Belt and the Missouri Pacific. This community was designated "East-side."

It was evident to many, that if this section of the city was to be evangelized and saved to Methodism a new church must be established.

Therefore, in 1903, Rev. A. C. Griffin, after a series of cottage prayer meetings, organized "East Side Methodist Church." There were about a dozen charter members.

Richard Jackson gave the church one acre of land, where the church now stands on East Court Street, and the Church was built as soon as the material could be placed on the ground, and at later times additions have been made according to the need. In 1914 a parsonage was built and additions and remodeling have been made on the parsonage.

The following are said to be charter members of Griffin Memorial:

A. P. Mack, R. L. Mitchell, Sr., Thomas Spillman, A. C. Astrop, Mrs. J. L. Earl, Mrs. Montieth, Mr. and Mrs. John Mosley, Allen Smith and family.

In about the year of 1945, East Side Methodist Church changed it's name to Griffin Memorial in memory of Rev. A. G. Griffin, minister present at the time of the organi-

zation, who was also a great inspiration for many years to the church.

The Quarterly Conference of Griffin Memorial, on the night of September 19, 1952, met and confirmed the effort and plans for a new sanctuary and the remodeling of the present sanctuary for an educational building. The building committee appointed was Cecil Mitchell, Carl Hart, Troy Moore, Audie Milner, J. C. Gramling and James E. Bolin.

The new sanctuary which is our dream has a possible seating capacity of 300 or more with nice choir space for 30 people and a large roomy space around the altar.

In addition to the nice roomy sanctuary there are four rooms, two on either end, choir room, pastor's study on the rear of the building and a large vestibule with class rooms on either side on the front. It will be a beautiful brick with a tile brick veneer, with thirteen inch wall. The concrete floor, with tile top, will be about two steps up.

Remodeling of the present building is designed as follows; Beginning at the front entrance, with a hallway leading all the way across the building, dividing the west side into classrooms and the east side into one large fellowship hall. This fellowship hall will be used by all the church for suppers, for youth rallies and for get-together meetings of the entire church.

In the south side and east portion of the building will be a nice kitchen, leading out into the fellowship hall, making convenient our

HELP FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS

The sale of 1952 Christmas TB Seals will open November 17th and continue through Christmas Day. In Greater Little Rock and Pulaski County the program against TB for 33 years has been carried on by the Pulaski County Tuberculosis Association. The Budget for this work is entirely dependent on the sale of Christmas Seals and Bonds.

Christmas seals are more than colorful little stamps; they have become part of the American family tradition, along with the tree, the wreaths, the gifts, carols and decorations.

Unbought they are only pieces of paper, a pretty design on the face and glue on the back. Bought they are crusaders, armies, missionaries. They go out and fight for you and for me and our neighbors. When you buy seals you support the program of prevention, information and protection carried on by your local TB Association 365 days each year. Each Seal is a weapon. It cuts two ways. It fights against unhealthy conditions. It fights for better conditions. How much the Association will be able to accomplish will depend entirely upon your generosity in purchasing Christmas Seals and Health Bonds.

fellowship suppers. A new easy-to-use stairway will lead into the upper rooms, now used by the Junior Department. A hallway coming in from the east side of the building and from the covered passageway that ties the two buildings together, will lead into the other hallway and to the stairway upstairs and to the basement. Hardwood floors will be in the upper rooms as well as in the fellowship hall.

Two years ago Griffin Memorial was reported to have 300 resident and non-resident members. The last annual conference records shows Griffin Memorial to have 457 resident and non-resident members. Thus, in these two years we have more than a 50 per cent net increase.

Three years ago the overage attendance in the Sunday School was reported at 100, the next year 125, and a year later 142. The average attendance at the present time, is running around 155, with a possibility of an average attendance of 200 with proper housing.

We feel that every member will do his full share both in time and money. I am confident that the job will be done. The Loyalty Supper, Monday 10th, had over 125 in attendance with fine entertainment and gospel songs and talks from members of the congregation along with remarks from the pastor. Special speakers were Rev. S. B. Wilford, pastor of First Church and Rev. A. N. Storey, district superintendent. The campaign drive is for \$25,000.00 for the new sanctuary and \$5,000.00 for the remodeling of the present sanctuary into an educational building.

Something like 500 have signed prayer pledges. The supper for the captains and their workers will be November twenty-fifth. They will report back every three or four days in group meetings until their work is complete—J. H. Holt.

OLDER ADULTS HONORED IN FORREST CITY

Inspiration for a recent party in Forrest City was the group of older adults, whose many years of loyalty and loving service in the church have inestimably enriched its heritage.

Guests were Mrs. J. F. McDougal, Mrs. J. A. Gray, Miss Margie Eldridge, Mrs. Riley Hunt, Mrs. A. D. McDaniel, Mrs. C. G. Barton, Sr., Mrs. George Walker, Sr., Mrs. Laura Mallory, Mrs. C. C. Fogg, Mrs. E. B. Smith, Mrs. Lela Grady, Mrs. J. F. Buchanan, Mrs. A. Ward, Mrs. Lloyd Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tulley, T. W. Horney, James Alley, and Mrs. J. C. Fletcher.

Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Franks asked the privilege of being hosts to the party and he was in charge of the afternoon's entertainment.

Written invitations had been sent to the honorees asking them to bring photographs taken many years ago, individual, or in groups. These were enjoyed and when Brother Franks read a list of names of former pastors, the guests related occasions of two weddings, many infant baptisms, and other personal experiences had during their ministry.

An art painting done by a member Mr. W. A. Delano, deceased recently, and a newspaper souvenir—edition were displayed with interesting comments; the organist of 50 years ago played a piano solo, the church clerk who served 30 years related some historical highlights, the group sang "Silver Threads Among the Gold," and reminiscing filled the remainder of a delightful afternoon's entertainment.

Refreshments of ice cream and old-fashioned pound cake were served.

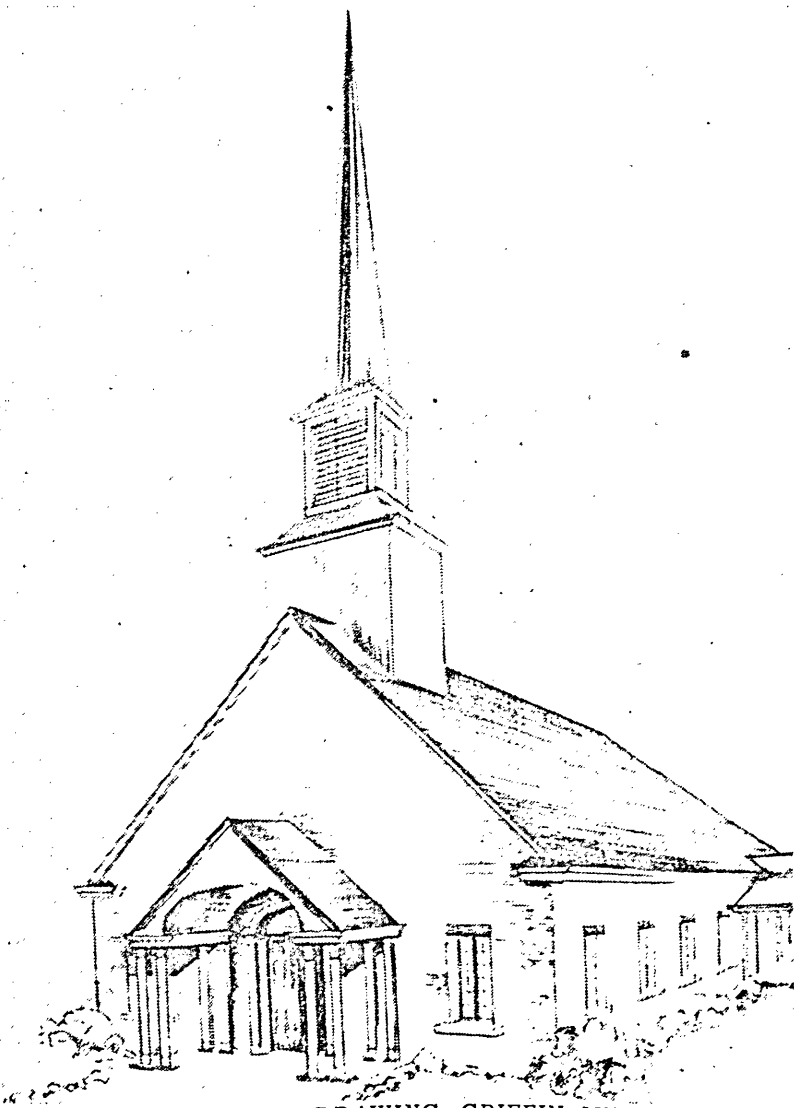
Coming out of suggestions made at the Assembly for Older Adults held in Conway, in July 1951—which Mrs. George Walker attended, the party and transportation were arranged by the Philathea Women's Class, of which Mrs. George Walker, Sr. is teacher. Class members assisting were Mrs. Ethan Dodgen, Mrs. Louis Cox, Mrs. Albert Laser, Mrs. J. R. Chappell, Miss Mildred Williams, Mrs. George Walker Jr., and Mrs. T. Stout.

A Christmas party will be given for this group in December at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chappell, and visits, small gifts and other special attentions are being shown the beloved elderly folk of the church.—Virginia Hine.

CARD OF THANKS

May our heavenly Father, the Giver of all good things, hear my prayer and bestow a special blessing on the kind folks who have made it possible for one who has been an invalid for many years to attend the fellowship of worship and church school services in the church; especially did I appreciate the recent spirit-filled revival.

Only those who have had similar experiences can appreciate my sincere gratitude. I humbly thank each one who helped in any way to make this great experience possible for me. I covet the prayers of all of the children of God.—Buel McGehee, Green Forest.



ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING, GRIFFIN MEMORIAL



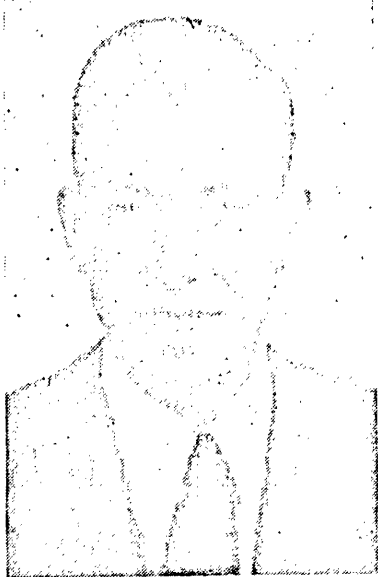
"Along A Country Road"
The North Arkansas Conference
The Town and Country
Commission

The Methodist Church
 Hendrix Station, Conway, Arkansas
 Paul E. Martin, Bishop Mr. Lester Hutchins,
 Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Vice-President
 President Rev. David P. Conyers,
 Secretary
 Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, Executive Secretary

OPENING NIGHT AT OAKLAND

Friday night, November 14, was a great occasion for the people of the Oakland Methodist Church. A great gathering of members of the church along with many friends gathered for a fellowship dinner and the official opening of their beautiful, native stone building. This was the culmination of a dream of long standing. It was the answer of a loyal congregation to the challenge of a new day of opportunity. The achievement was made possible by the co-operation of a large number of people in the local community and beyond. The Oakland church is on the Naylor Charge and is being served by Thomas Nation, a Hendrix Student who is in his third year on this charge. It is also the pilot charge in the Conway District for this year, the assignment having been made by Dr. C. M. Reves, who was on the District when plans were first made for the beginning of the building. An outstanding feature in this program is the fact that the Oakland church is also included in the lay-speaking program from First Church, Conway. Mr. Ken Estes, the regular assigned lay-speaker for Oakland, has given enthusiastic and generous support to the program. Mr. W. H. Flemming, a native son of the Oakland community, now living in Conway, is chairman of the Faulkner County lay-speaking group.

The program was also made possible, through the guidance of Rev. R. E. L. Bearden, District Superintendent, who gave administrative direction, securing a small loan from the Board of Missions and Church Extension. Bro. Bearden presided at the official opening of the church. Though the community was hard hit by the drought, the loyal sacrificial service on the part of the people undergirded by great courage made



REV. THOMAS NATION



it possible for the building to be erected. The fine people of the Oakland, led by the following building committee: R. L. Clements, Mrs. Veda Jackson, Earnest Lackey, Charlie Loveless, A. E. Clements, Vervian Parsons, O. G. Goode, T. F. Clements, W. E. Parsons, Nolten Goode, Eldon King, F. E. Stevenson, W. W. Newberry, Mrs. Ruby Butler is to be congratulated along with the pastor for this great achievement. All of us as Methodists can rejoice together that another rural church has come into its own.—J. Albert Gatlin.

DR. STEEL HEADS SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL

Dr. Marshall Steel, pastor of the Highland Park Methodist Church, Dallas, was elected chairman of the South Central Jurisdictional Council, succeeding Bishop H. Bascom Watts at the meeting of the Council on Wednesday, November 12, in Dallas.

The Council, attended by most of the bishops of the Jurisdiction and representatives of some two million Methodists in the Jurisdiction, concluded its one-day meeting at the Highland Park Church, Dallas, with election of new officers for four-year terms as follows: Dr. Frank C. Tucker, pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, St. Louis, was elected vice-chairman; Mrs. E. D. Galloway of Hope was re-elected secretary; T. Russell Reitz, of Manhattan, Kansas, was re-elected treasurer and Dr. Paul D. Womeldorf, of Oklahoma City, was re-elected executive secretary.

The Jurisdiction's Commission on Finance, which met simultaneously at Dallas on Wednesday, elected Rev. G. Alfred Brown of Fort Worth, Texas, its chairman; Rev. Orbin Texas of El Paso, Texas, vice-chairman, and Rev. Virgil D. Morris of New Orleans, secretary.

IMPROVEMENTS AT FISHER STREET CHURCH

Since conference we have redecorated the sanctuary. The floors have been refinished and carpeted by the WSCS. There has also been placed in the sanctuary a large picture, Sallman's Head of Christ, to add to our worship experience. The large room in the old annex has been completely refinished, and Mrs. Clyde Johnston gave us a good piano for the senior department. The kindergarten class room is now being plastered. The Woman's society also has a project on to get new stain glass windows in the sanctuary. We hope to have this accomplished by the coming conference in June.

We also have had better attendance than last year in spite of the uncomfortably hot weather we had this past summer. The average attendance at Sunday School will run well ahead of what it did this time last year.

We also raised our budget several hundred dollars for this year, and decided to pay all our connectionals every quarter. This we did the first quarter.—Clyde Johnston.

TIMOTHY CHURCH NEWS

Although Timothy church was founded in February 1947, less than five years ago, we now have our seventh pastor, the Rev. Russ Shaaffer.

Brother Sheaffer has unusual abil-

BATESVILLE DISTRICT HENDRIX COLLEGE BANQUET

The drive for the Batesville District's share of the Hendrix Campaign Fund was launched Thursday November 13th, in Fellowship Hall of First Church, Batesville. Rev. R. E. Connell, District Superintendent, stated that the occasion was to give Methodist ministers and laymen a better understanding and appreciation of Hendrix College and its fine work. Brother Connell said that there are some "Musts" in the program of Arkansas Methodist and Hendrix was one of them. He referred to the fine Christian atmosphere on the Hendrix campus and the great number, business and professional leaders, that the institution educates.

Rev. E. G. Kaetzell, pastor of First Church Batesville, showed a film depicting a cross section of "Life on the Hendrix Campus." The picture was very interesting especially since it showed many of the boys and girls of the Batesville District.

At the conclusion of the film Charles Barnett, a member of the Board of Trustees of Hendrix and a leading layman and business man introduced Joe Thompson, business man of Little Rock, and director of the campaign. Mr. Thompson said that Hendrix has beautiful and well constructed buildings and a high academic rating, but that this was not enough. It was necessary to keep the superior faculty there if the college is to continue to have this rating. It is also necessary, he said, to keep a great faculty there if Arkansas Methodism is to continue to have the fine quality of service and the great leaders that characterize our college.

The film and the turkey dinner were the personal gift of Charles Barnett.

Mrs. Nels Barnett, Mrs. Stokes, and Mrs. R. E. Connell with other ladies of the church prepared and served this delicious dinner.—H. W. Jinske.

ity as a leader. After one month of his pastorate, here are some of our accomplishments:

First, The beautiful new educational building is nearing completion. This structure will nearly double the size of our church plant.

Second, Beautiful and comfortable new pews have been ordered to replace our old benches and will be in place by the middle of December.

Third, Beautiful and convenient, printed programs are now issued for our morning worship services.

Fourth, Attendance at our Sunday School and preaching services is steadily increasing.

Fifth, More is being paid to benevolent causes.

Sixth, A new flower fund for the sick of our community had been established.

Seventh, Prayer meeting attendance has been tripled.

Eight, In addition to serving two churches, Brother Sheaffer visits daily in the homes and serves as unpaid chaplain at the County Hospital.—Ross Patterson.

5,000 CHRISTIAN WORKERS WANTED

to sell Bibles, Testaments, good books, handsome Scripture mottoes, Scripture calendars, greeting cards. Good commission. Send for free catalog and price-list.

George W. Noble, The Christian Co. Dept. D, Pontiac Bldg., Chicago, 5, Ill.



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Methodist

Youth

Fellowship

NEWS

CAMDEN DISTRICT YOUTH MEET

More than 250 Methodist youth of the Camden District gathered at Vantrease Methodist Church, El Dorado, Monday night, November 10, for their second district rally of the current year.

Charles Cook, president, presided over the business meeting. Current business included the consideration of a central time for all Sub-District meetings and the omission of a Sub-District meeting the month of a district rally. Both suggestions are to be carried back to the Sub-Districts and considered at the next rally.

Recreation which consisted mostly of singing folk songs was directed by Ann Geddies. Refreshments were served in the educational building. "Reaching Youth for Christ", a skit of youth evangelism, was presented by the Wesley Foundation of Southern State College. Those taking part in the worship program included Eugene Rushing, El Dorado; Mary Frances O'Dell, Camden; Mary Jo Stemple, Wickes; Lenora Sue Anderson, Camden; Wanda Benson, Chidester; Davis Billberry, Stephens; Winnie Lee Anderson, Camden; Doyle Graham, Stamps; Arleta Adams, El Dorado; and Charles

M. Y. F. TO RAISE MONEY FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN

In cooperation with a district youth project the Amite Methodist Youth Fellowship has taken as a project the raising of money to feed hungry children. The money will be sent through the "Meals For Millions" Foundation.

This foundation is distributing the specially prepared soy bean product called "Multi-purpose Food" to all parts of the world. This food contains nutrients in recommended amounts of protein, minerals, vitamins (except C) comparable to those found in a meal of 1/4 lb. of beef, a baked potato, a side dish of peas, and a glass of milk; a meal that's truly a life-saver to a starving person.

These young people planned a "sacrificial meal" in the church annex on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 6:00 p. m., to which the congregation was invited to attend and to bring an offering. For every dollar brought thirty-three starving persons will be fed.

Cook, Magnolia.

The next district rally will be at First Methodist Church in Camden with Ouachita Sub-District as host. The date will be announced later.—Charles Cook.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH SERVE MALAYA

DP's

By J. HARRY HAINES, Wesley Methodist Church
Ipoh, Malaya

WHEN a new Methodist church is built it is news. But when 42 young people in three and one half weeks build one, that's "extra" news. We are deeply concerned with the new squatter resettlement villages, where the government has relocated some 500,000 Chinese.

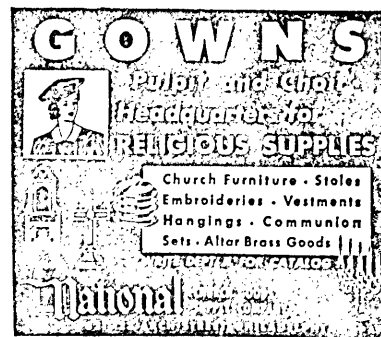
Our conference now has work in 45 villages and in one of them, Pendamaram (the village of the great tree) where there are 9,000 people, we built this church seating 300 people. It was the first work camp to be held in Malaya and my first experience directing such an ambitious project but we rejoice in being able to complete the building in time except for the painting and a few final touches. It was a great experience for our MYF'ers and it certainly amazed the villagers to see Chinese, Indians, Eurasians, Siamese and Americans working in the blazing sun from early morning until late afternoon. One villager said, as he watched, "nobody works that hard even when they are paid for it."

We had three skilled carpenters to help us with the construction

work, and Paul Wiant, our architect, stayed with us for four days to make sure the foundations were level. The young people are from every part of Malaya together with five Siamese university students who flew from Bangkok, with the aid of a grant from the World Council of Churches. None of them had done much in the way of manual work so it was hard work at the beginning, particularly as we had to dig some thirty tons of clay from a quarry for the floor and mix ten tons of cement. The church has plank walls and a corrugated iron roof. Towering over other buildings in the village its aluminum cross can be seen for miles around.

Incidentally the church is built on part of the runway of a former bomber airfield built by the Japanese during their occupation of Mal-

(Continued on page 15)



WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS

The Lake Charles Sub-District group met with the Welsh young people on Sunday afternoon, November 9. The program featured "Recreation." The main speaker was Lamar Robertson of the First Methodist Church, Lake Charles, who spoke on "The Game of Life." Lynn Jordan, chairman of Recreation for the Sub-District, had charge of the social hour. He presented a group of boys from Lake Charles in a very clever skit entitled "How Not to Plan Recreation." Refreshments were served to about 125 young people. Miss Peggy Donaldson of University Church, Lake Charles, is president of the Sub-District and Joe Fenten is president of the Welsh Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The Arkansas Valley Sub-District met at Hartman with the Hartman Methodist Youth Fellowship as host on November 10. Hartman was in charge of the devotional service, based on the Armistice Day theme. Plans were made for each church to give its pledge to the M. Y. Fund. Plans were also made to give Christmas gifts to the Methodist Children's Home at the December meeting. Ninety-two were present. The next meeting will be at Ozark on December 8.

The Northern Sub-District of the Forrest City District met in Wynne on Monday, October 27 with Earle in charge of the worship. Rev. G. A. McKelvey, pastor at Earle, was the inspirational speaker. Wynne supplied the recreation and refreshments. A total of sixty-eight was present, representing Wynne, Earle, Marion and West Memphis. The November meeting will be held at

Earle.

The Crossett-Hamburg Sub-District met November 17, at the Jack Mayfield Memorial Church, Huttig with 54 members present, representing churches from Crossett, Hamburg, Huttig and Strong. In the absence of the president and vice-president the secretary presided over the business meeting. It was decided that the December meeting at Crossett be postponed until January at Hamburg, because of a Sub-District watch night service which is to be held at Crossett. Plans were also discussed in creating more interest and better attendance at the meet-

ings.

The Huttig group had charge of the devotional meditation, entitled, "Our Heritage", after which a short period of recreation was enjoyed. The Woman's Society of Christian Service served refreshments.

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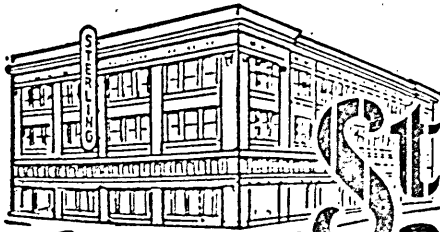
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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

CHRISTIAN YOUTH SERVE MALAYA D.P.'s

(Continued from page 14)

aya. There are about 50 Christians in the village. Previously they lived 30 miles to the north but as they and others were constantly oppressed by communist terrorists they were moved to a safer area. In the excitement of the move their little Methodist Church was burned to the ground. At our All-Malaya Institute of the MYF last April, I told them about this and other challenges in the New Villages. Fifteen offered themselves for two years full-time service, 125 volunteered regular week-end service and they agreed to raise \$4,000 for building materials for a new church and 42 of them would build it.

In addition to building the church, we went out two by two to visit 1,000 homes in the village to tell them why we had come and leave with them a copy of the gospel of Mark.

Recently there arrived in Malaya 800 soldiers from the far-off Fiji Islands. In a visit to Fiji in 1938 I discovered that there were more Christians in the islands per capita than anywhere else in the world that 90% of the people are Methodists in fellowship with our Australian Methodists. Seven hundred and twenty-five of the battalion are Methodists and they have with them an outstanding chaplain. On a recent visit to their camp in Negri Sembilan, I was amazed to hear soldiers singing a hymn as they worked together. In the sick-bay, a soldier was softly playing to the other soldiers "Silent Night" on his guitar. I found as I talked with the men, were concerned that in their fight against the terrorists that the powers of evil and hatred should not fill their own hearts for as one said "this would be worse than any physical death." When one of them killed the first terrorist soon after their arrival, he wept for hours after, for he as a young man had been brought up in a small village where they loved God and he could not reconcile the teachings he had heard all his life in that Methodist community with the grim realities of modern jungle warfare. We are going to arrange for some of the men to visit our churches and later attend some of our youth institutes.

The work in Ipoh continues to challenge us with never ending opportunities. Church attendance at Wesley has increased to the point that we have outgrown our present building. Last week our official board decided to immediately build an extension seating another 80 people and next year to build a new church. The present one was built in 1896 and is one of the oldest churches in Malaya. It is a wonderful and humbling experience to preach every Sunday to a crowded church where the average age of the worshippers is 23 years. This Christmas we will again sing the Messiah and Loma is busy getting together a choir of 70 to start practices. The orchestra of the 12th Royal Lancers' Regiment will play with the choir.

There is not much to report on the political front. The new High Commissioner Sir Gerald Templer, is considered by all rational groups to be the most enlightened and fair-minded leader Malaya has had and he is genuinely concerned with the task of preparing Malaya for self-government. There are still the daily

FALLEN TOWERS

(Continued from page 6)

point to a unity of purpose and a common loyalty and love. The tower totters when the narrow robe of sectarianism is exclusive of others.

Basically the question comes to a focal point in our lives as we question the motives that propel us toward the objective. Francis Asbury asked himself some straight forward questions as his ship made its way to America. He finally answered that question with the declaration that he was coming to America to serve God and to try to get others to do so too. How near that purpose controlled his life is a matter of record. There are countless others who out of the sincerity of their hearts have traveled farther along the King's Highway and have led us onward.

Men still try to build their own towers into the heavens and still there is failure. They build for themselves towers and try to sit upon the pinnacle of their own self-importance. Such building is risky business for there is not the eternal foundation that will uphold it.

To be sure sincerity is an essential quality of the Christian life. Men who are sincere will mine deep into the heart of God's love and follow Him along the holy way. They will discover the eternal truths that will bring the deepest satisfaction to their lives. The energies of their lives will be intelligently directed to build His kingdom in the heart of men and in the society in which he lives. This road is open for the humblest and most unlearned Christian. All can know the truth that frees them from the bondage of bigotry, selfishness, and littleness. The truth that makes us free is the same truth that will lead us into "full-grown men and women in

Christ Jesus". Sincere? Yes, a sin-quota of terrorist incidents of ambushes, arson and surprise attacks but the situation is greatly proved since a year ago.

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Rev. Marion McGuire

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Rev. Carl Adams



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ON BEING THANKFUL

"Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15.

As we have grown older and have become more independent of our parents, perhaps our gratefulness to them is somewhat dimmed by this sense of being able to do for ourselves. Similarly, we may become so busy, and perhaps, so efficient, that our sense of dependence upon God is lessened. For it is probable that more gratefulness is offered to Him by the needy and lowly, than is offered by those who have every need gratified. Even in the time of Christ, after healing of the ten lepers, the proportion of those offering thanks was only one in ten.

If "His praise shall continually be in my mouth", it will not leave time or room for negative criticism of other people. Fortunately, we are not called upon to decide how other folks should live. There is a Judge for that. How much time that saves us—Time that may be well spent in thankfulness to Him, and in good deeds that prove our thankfulness.

THOUGHT FOR EVERY DAY —

cerity that will constrain us to know more about Jesus and His love for us.—RB

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 11)

Mrs. John Brown, chairman of the project.

Highlighting the sale was the Christmas Corner, which featured model Christmas packages representing the wrapping service to be conducted by the society from December 1st to 21st at the Shopping Center, under the direction of Mrs. Charles Garretson.

The Lula McSwain Society of Emmet met in the home of Mrs. Ramey Garland, with Mrs. T. L. Garland as co-hostess. Mrs. J. M. Johnson lead the program "Interpreted by Love," with discussion by Mrs. Scott Ross and Mrs. Bob Magness.

The "Horn of Plenty" was featured on the tea table and refreshments, served to the 22 members, one new member, and one guest.

"Giving thanks ALWAYS for ALL THINGS unto God". Ephesians 5:20. —Mrs. Ben-Doulton.

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The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 7, 1952

HOW DOES THE KINGDOM GROW?

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
Matthew 13. Printed Text: Matthew 13:24-33, 53-54.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened." (Mat. 13:33)

This is the second lesson of Unit III. The entire unit has to do with the fact that Christianity is for the good of men. All lessons of the unit will deal with the benefits of Christianity for mankind and how these benefits may be extended to an ever-increasing number of people. The theme of our last lesson was "Men Or Profits for the Liquor Traffic?" Today we are thinking in terms of how the Kingdom of God grows.

A Look at the Scriptures

We are studying primarily only the printed text of the lesson, but we note in passing that the entire 13th chapter of Matthew is made up of parables. There are seven parables in this chapter, all of which have to do with teachings concerning the Kingdom of God, or of heaven, as Matthew puts it.

We are told in this chapter that the Lord did most of his teaching in parables. We might well raise the question as to what a parable is. This figure of speech has been described as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. There is a lot of truth in that particular definition. The word "parable" comes from the Greek word "paraballo" which means "to throw alongside", or as it is sometimes expressed "to place alongside." We get our word "parallel" from it. A parable then is simply a story taken from the material side of life and laid along by the side of a spiritual truth to illustrate it. More than any other teacher or philosopher of the human race Christ delved into the spiritual side of life. He made his teaching simple and understandable by the use of parables.

The Wheat and the Tares

The first parable of the printed text has to do with the wheat and the tares. A man sowed good seed in his field but while he slept an enemy came and sowed tares. Both came up together. The servants hated the tares among the wheat and felt that the owner should have them pulled out. He instructed them, however, to let them grow together until the time of harvest, at which time they would be separated from the wheat. The tares mentioned in the parable was darnal which in the early stages of growth resembled wheat.

In verses 37 through 43 of the chapter the Lord carefully explained the meaning of this parable. The owner is the Son of Man (that is Christ himself); the good seed are the sons of the kingdom; the evil seed are the children of Satan; the field is the world; the harvest is the end of the age or world; the reapers are the angels who will separate the good from the bad; the separation will be eternal; the good will go into a state of everlasting joy and peace while the wicked will

enter a condition of suffering.

From this parable we note the fact that Christ realized that both good and evil would continue in the world throughout this present age. Down to the very end there will always be some who reject the Gospel of Christ, and unredeemed human nature will continue to be filled with fear, prejudice, selfishness, greed, and hatred. The fact that Christ, from the first, realized this truth should be of great encouragement to us. In spite of the evil that he knew would continue in the world he felt that it was eminently worth while to continue to sow the good seed.

The Mustard Seed

Next we have the parable of the mustard seed. Like the one above this parable was also given to bring encouragement to the disciples. The early disciples were like us today, they wanted the Kingdom of God to sweep the world immediately. In this parable the Lord taught them that though the Kingdom was small in its beginning, it would grow large. The mustard seed is not the smallest of all seeds, but it is very small. But small as it is, from it a large plant grows. It is said that in the East the mustard plant grows into a small tree, and the birds of the air come, lodge in the branches of it, and build their nests in it.

Each parable teaches one central truth. The truth that this parable illustrates and emphasizes is that of growth; something of great proportion coming from that which is small. "Large oaks from little acorns grow." One thought we must keep in mind is that growth is gradual.

The Leaven

The parable of the leaven, or yeast, is a twin to that of the mustard seed. Both of them have to do with the advancement of the Kingdom. The mustard seed parable illustrates this advancement by outward growth, while that of the leaven illustrates advancement by inward permeation. These parables are alike in that both of them illustrate the advancement of the Kingdom and both of them teach the fact that the advancement is gradual. These facts are true with the Kingdom of God both in the heart of the individual or in the world. The advancement is gradual. There is no sudden way of transforming a community into the Kingdom of God, neither is there any way of making an individual Christlike in character by any number of sudden experiences. These things are accomplished by gradual growth or permeation.

This parable of the yeast, or leaven, as much as any doctrine in the Bible teaches the fact that Christian influence spreads. These "three measures of meal" were almost a bushel, but the yeast did not stop until all was permeated. It did its work gra-

dually and silently. Some of the very best Christian work is done in this way. The writer has no quarrel with old-fashioned testimonies. He feels that Methodism lost something of value when they were laid aside, but after all is said and done a person's greatest and most effective testimony is not that which he says with his lips but rather that which he lives daily through his deeds and attitudes. After all, every Christian is a preacher whether he wants to be or not, and his sermon is his life. We are living epistles (letters) known and read of all men. No person, who ever comes in contact with others, can avoid radiating influence, and most of it is done like the working of yeast; gradually quietly, and imperceptibly.

Christ at Nazareth

All of the above parables were given by the Lord in the autumn of A. D. 28 near Capernaum on the shore of the sea of Galilee. After finishing his teaching on this occasion at Capernaum the Lord headed for Nazareth some 25 miles away. It will be remembered that this was the place where Christ grew up. It was not a large community. No doubt the Lord knew all who lived there. He had only been away from Nazareth a few months. During that time, however, he had made quite a record. He had become a noted healer and teacher.

At first the people of Nazareth received Christ with great enthusiasm. He was a home-town boy who had gone away and was now returning after making considerable success. He must have arrived on the sabbath, for we are told that he went to the synagogue. He brought the message on that occasion. At the beginning of the service his old-time friends heard him with astonishment. They raised the question, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?" As the service progressed, however, they became very angry with the Lord and according to Luke, who records the same event, they carried him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built with the purpose of throwing him overboard and thus destroying him. He escaped out of their hands and so far as the record reveals never again returned to his home town.

The Lesson Applied

Let us bear in mind the theme of our lesson: "HOW DOES THE KINGDOM GROW?" This question has been partly answered by the above parables. They teach that the Kingdom does grow; that it had a small beginning but that it would continue to advance until it covered the earth. They teach that the advancement of the Kingdom would be by outward growth and inward permeation. They teach that this advancement of the Kingdom will be gradual and sometimes imperceptible. They teach that the advancement of the Kingdom will meet with opposition. The evil and the good will both exist side by side in the world until the end of this present age.

In applying the lesson to our modern life we might well raise the question as to just what the Kingdom of God is. It is a social order in which God is recognized as Father of all (at least potentially) and because all have a common Father in him, then all people are brothers, and this regardless of race, nationality, or color. It is the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men.

This Kingdom has but one law and it is the law of love. The individual member of the Kingdom of God is to love the Father with all of his heart, soul, mind, and strength, and his fellowmen as he does himself. All who meet these requirements and assume these responsibilities are members of the Kingdom. If the numbers who meet these conditions are growing then the Kingdom is growing outwardly. On the other hand if those who are already members of the Kingdom are constantly becoming more Christlike in character then the Kingdom is growing inwardly. It is not a matter of how rapidly this growth is going on. Christ himself said it would be gradual.

It is the writer's conviction that the Kingdom is growing both inwardly and outwardly. This growth, however, is very slow. There is a great deal in the world today which is in direct opposition to the Kingdom of God. Think of the corruption, the prejudice, the fear, the confusion, the jealousy, the selfishness, the greed, and the hatred in our modern world. But for a couple of facts the writer would be a confirmed pessimist: First, he believes in Christ and simply cannot imagine that the Lord ultimately will fail; Second, though the world is filled with all these evils there is a greater feeling against them today than ever before. As this tide of feeling against these evils rises more and more will be done to eliminate them.

The Kingdom is coming, slowly but surely. It is coming by gradual growth; a growth that registers itself both inwardly and outwardly. This advancement, however, is not regular and constant. It meets with many setbacks. There are moral slumps that sometimes take us back further than the gains made just prior to those slumps. We are in the midst of such a slump just now. But by the grace and help of God we will come out of it. One thing is certain, if the history of the world is taken over long enough periods of time, the trend is always forward. The world is better today than it was a thousand years ago, or five hundred years ago, or even one hundred years ago. Those who contend that the world is growing worse reach their conclusion by noting only the comparatively brief moral slumps that occur from time to time. They need to get a longer view-point. This would convince them that the general trend is upward and forward toward a better day. The mustard seed is still growing and the leaven is still carrying on its work of permeation. This advancement can be greatly enhanced if all who wear the name of Christ will work more diligently at the task of building the Kingdom among men.

OPS Lifts Controls On Church Robes

Removal of price ceilings on choir robes, pulpit gowns, and other special garments worn in connection with religious services or college commencements was announced in Washington by the Office of Price Stabilization. The government agency said controls were being lifted because the prices of these garments do not significantly affect the cost of living, since the annual sales volume is small. Rentals of robes, vestments, and academic gowns, however, will remain subject to price controls.

ARKANSAS METHODIST