

Arkansas



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Area Program Moves Into Action

DURING this week and through next week the final District Conference sessions of the three annual conferences of this Area and the special session of the Little Rock Conference will be held. One of the features of the District Conference sessions of the Louisiana and North Arkansas Conferences is the presentation of the fourfold Area program developed by the Arkansas-Louisiana Area Council in its October meeting. The purpose of the special session of the Little Rock Conference is to accomplish the same mission—inform and inspire the members of that conference concerning the Area program.

Whatever else may be said about the Stewardship-Missions-Evangelism-Christian Education program it ought above all other things to develop among the Methodists of these two states a sense of loyalty to Christ, the church and the Kingdom. Methodists are rarely ever accused of being narrow-minded and rabid denomination-ists. However, we suspect that sometimes our devotion becomes so broad that it is not deep enough at places. It is entirely possible to develop among our people a real devotion and loyalty to Methodism and the Kingdom without closing ourselves off from the greater Christian communion that knows no denominational lines. This we believe is one of the great needs of Methodism. The four point Area program can help to meet this need.

The General's Journey

"HOPE springs eternal in the human breast: Man never is, but always to be, blest." So wrote Alexander Pope more than two hundred years ago and each succeeding generation learns for itself the eternal significance of these words. Regardless of how bright or dark the day may be, there is forever the faith that something may happen that will make tomorrow a better day than today. Among the many dreams of what that tomorrow may be is the hope that it will be a day when war will be no more and nations will settle their difficulties and misunderstandings without resorting to the use of force. Any action that is calculated to terminate existing battles always stimulates hope in the experiences of those who are most directly involved in the conflict. Thus it is that General Eisenhower's announced journey to Korea awakens new hope that somehow, someday, something can be done to bring to an end the war that seems to be a losing proposition for all active parties concerned.

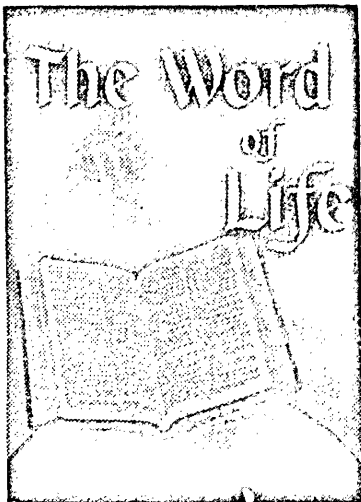
It may be that even now the President-Elect is in Korea learning first hand what the conditions are with a view of taking action that will force the issue one way or another. It is reasonable to expect that a different course than the present one will be followed, especially since the Korean situation became an issue in the recent election. Those who are interested in the work of the United Nations hope that whatever course is proposed will be one that will strengthen the hands of this international organization rather than weakening its position for the future. It is interesting indeed that a man with such a long military experience should have such an opportunity to take the initiative in working out a course that possibly could set a trend toward the cessation of active military operations. But whatever may be the outcome of his journey to the front, the world should know that another

(Continued on page 4)

"The Word Of Life"

USING as its slogan, "The Word of Life," the American Bible Society again this year is giving emphasis to the reading of selected Bible passages for each day from Thanksgiving through Christmas. It calls also for the annual observance of Universal Bible Sunday on Sunday, December 14th.

The world is deeply indebted to the American Bible Society, a strictly non-profit organization, for the effective service it has rendered and is rendering in the promotion of the work of the kingdom. This it does through the distribution



of the Bible among the less fortunate peoples of the earth at home and abroad.

In America, where the Bible is too often taken for granted and too often neglected, we owe the American Bible Society a debt of gratitude for promoting this planned, daily reading of selected Bible passages through the Thanksgiving-Christmas period. We should remember, also, that Universal Bible Sunday offers a world-wide opportunity for cooperative emphasis of the fact that the Bible is truly "The Word Of Life."

Unless we have had occasion to study the matter we would hardly realize the magnitude of the work being done by the American Bible Society. In 1951 it distributed in the United States more than eight million Bibles or portions of the Bible. In foreign lands in 1951 it was responsible for the distribution of almost eight million Bibles or portions of the Bible.

The American Bible Society has had a major part in publishing and circulating some entire book of the Bible in one thousand, forty-nine languages and dialects. This total includes fifteen new languages added in 1951. The whole Bible is now published in one hundred ninety-five languages. In addition to these the New Testament is being published in an additional two hundred fifty-two languages. Above these, there are six hundred two languages in which at least a whole Gospel or some other book of the Bible is being published.

Sad as it may sound, we are told that there are still more than a thousand spoken languages which have not been reduced to writing. The task is still unfinished.

It Can Be Done

WE would like to call your attention to a recent accomplishment of The Methodist Church of Prescott and say that what this church has done in this respect can be duplicated or exceeded by practically every Methodist church in Arkansas if it sets its mind to this end. The Prescott church has just accepted as an Advance Special the support of a ministerial student of the Gujarat Conference in India. To finance the \$250 annually for this Special four adult Sunday School classes and one class of young people are each contributing the sum of \$1 each Sunday. The pastor, Rev. Warren Golden, states that the church made its decision to undertake this project following the recent appearance of Dr. W. Ferrel Pledger, missionary to India, before that congregation. Dr. Pledger is currently engaged in touring Arkansas making a report of what Arkansas Methodists' money given to the Gujarat Conference has accomplished.

We also know of one retired Methodist preacher in Arkansas who is personally assuming responsibility for a similar Advance Special. More than that, a lay woman of Prescott has already personally assumed the support of a Gujarat ministerial student. There are many other churches and several individuals that have had similar Advance Specials during the past quadrennium and are continuing them another period of four years. We call your attention to what the Prescott church and others have done simply to say that "it can be done" and it is being done.

Post-Thanksgiving Meditation

AFTER the Thanksgiving period, in which the Spirit of thankfulness is emphasized, it might be well, in a Post-Thanksgiving Meditation, to consider the alternative. In Romans, Paul speaks of some who, "When they knew God they glorified him not as God," and adds, "Neither were Thankful." In the statement which follows these words, Paul, gives one of the most vivid descriptions of gross, depraved sinfulness to be found in the record.

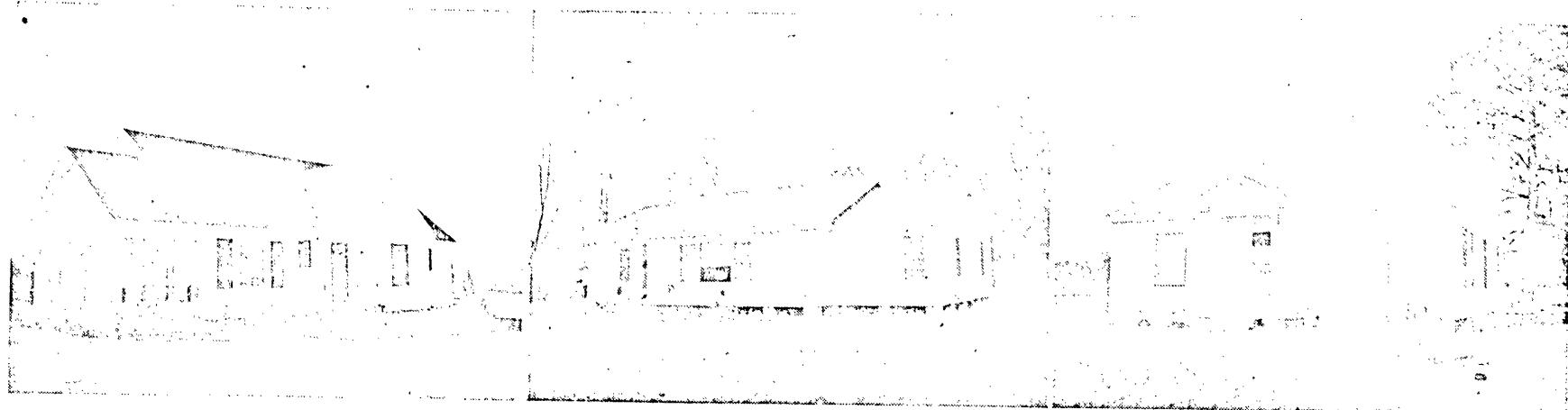
It is as if Paul were saying anything may happen if we lack the grace of gratitude. It is true that the sin of ingratitude is so basically bad that it seems to make possible, at least, sin in almost any form.

A dangerous thing about the lack of gratitude and thankfulness in life is that the individual guilty of this stultifying sin seldom recognizes the fact. If one does recognize that his life is so selfish that he feels no sense of gratitude for life's blessings he seldom, if ever, confesses it to others. One may confess to drunkenness, cheating, lying, stealing and even murder but he seldom confesses publicly that he is an ingrate. A priest to whom multiplied hundreds had made a confession of their sins declared that never had anyone confessed this sin of ingratitude.

We should "count our blessings" and cultivate within ourselves a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude. If we look about us with proper perspective, it should not be difficult to do. So many undeserved good things of life come our way, that gratitude should be a normal condition of life.

If, after examining our lives, we are forced to confess to ourselves, secretly, that we lack proper appreciation for life's blessing, we should remember that such an attitude toward life can

(Continued on page 4)



Monroe District Has Many Building Programs

THE STAFF IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ANOTHER ARTICLE DEALING WITH THE BUILDING PROGRAMS WITHIN ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA AREA. OTHER ARTICLES ARE SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION SOON

STAFF ARTICLE AND PHOTOS

It has been our privilege during the past several weeks to visit a number of the districts of the Arkansas-Louisiana Area with a view of presenting through these columns what is being done to improve the physical property in pastoral charges. We have found, as previous articles have indicated, that great progress is being made in this field. Perhaps, from a percentage point of view the Monroe District has made the greatest progress since every charge in the district is able to report significant progress and almost every church. During the superintendency of Rev. W. H. Giles, now in his sixth year as head of the Monroe District, upwards of one and a half million dollars worth of improvements have already been made and plans are being completed for other projects which will place this figure well past that amount.

This article has been scheduled for this week for sometime. This is the week and the date of this issue, December 4, is the date of the annual Monroe District Conference, the last under the present Superintendent since by Methodist law the term of a Methodist District Superintendent is limited to six years. These paragraphs and pictures will serve not only to tell the story to the Arkansas-Louisiana Area of the great progress which the Monroe District has made in its building programs, but will also serve as a report to the Monroe District Conference of what the churches under the leadership of Dr. Giles and the pastors have been doing to improve their church properties.

At the Gordon Avenue Methodist Church,

Monroe, Rev. M. David Felder, pastor, is a new educational building completed recently at a cost of \$18,300. This two-story unit houses all of the Children and Youth Divisions of the Church School as well as a social hall, kitchen, and nursery. There is now being completed a renovation and redecoration program in the sanctuary which includes a new ceiling of acoustical tile, asphalt tile on the floor, altar arrangement together with woodwork and walls being redecorated.

At the Stone Avenue Methodist Church, Monroe, where Rev. I. L. Yeager has been the pastor for the past 26 years, an entire new plant was constructed two years ago. The sanctuary will accommodate the three hundred members of the church and the 5000 feet of floor space in the two-story educational building makes possible the strong program of Christian education in this church. The building was completed in 1950 at a cost of \$25,600. There is at present a debt of \$2,800 which is expected to be paid within a short time. The brick veneer building is completed with fellowship hall and kitchen.

A new congregation and new building is already a reality in a fast growing southern section of Monroe. Called the Southside Methodist Church, this congregation was organized after the last session of the Louisiana Annual Conference and the first of three units in its building program was completed in August at a cost of slightly more than \$20,000. Rev. Lea Joyner is the pastor of this new church which now boasts of a membership of 180. The first

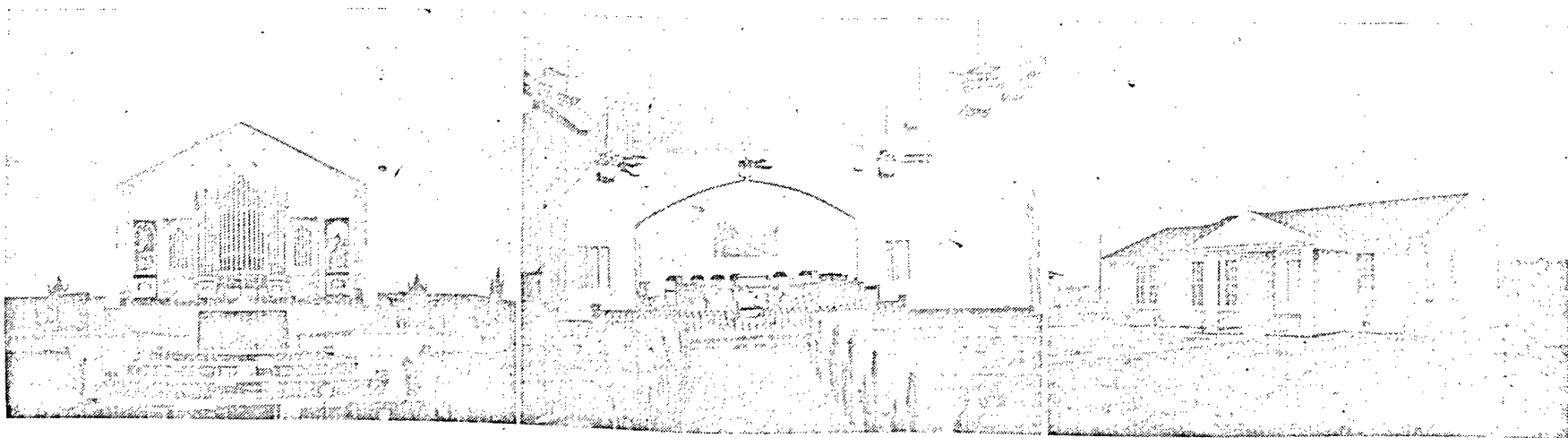
unit of 2400 square feet is serving as an educational building and sanctuary, but it has been so constructed that it can be made over entirely as an educational building as the program develops. An adjoining lot, 100 x 150 feet, was recently purchased which will provide room for expansion. \$8,000 on the program has been contributed by friends in the First Methodist Church, Monroe. \$3,000 was made available by the General Board of Missions and Church Extension, \$1,000 by the Conference Board and \$1,000 came through Advance Funds. The rest was borrowed. The congregation has raised \$2,200 since its organization on the building program, funds which made possible the purchase of additional lots and the reduction of the debt to \$6,400.

The First Methodist Church, completed and had dedicated a new educational building, constructed at a cost of more than \$300,000. Built under the pastoral administration of Dr. A. M. Serex, the structure immediately joins the main sanctuary building and houses the large church school program of this church which heads the district in strength. Of brick, steel, concrete and plaster construction, the building has other than the church school rooms, the offices for the staff of the church, church parlors and reception rooms, a large fellowship room and kitchen. It is one of the outstanding educational buildings of the conference. Dr. H. L. Johns is the present pastor.

Since the June session of the Annual Conference \$4,900 has been spent by the Monroe First Church congregation in a complete redecoration program of its parsonage. Each room in the beautifully columned southern-style home was redecorated and the kitchen came in for a complete overhauling. The cost given included the addition of several beautiful pieces of furnishings which all taken together contribute to the making of a lovely home. The home includes the living room, music room, dining room, and

Top of page: (l to r) New Methodist parsonage at Claiborne Methodist Church, West Monroe; New Methodist parsonage of the Gilbert-Beauf Prairie Charge at Gilbert; New Methodist parsonage of the McGuire Methodist Church, West Monroe.

Bottom of page: (l to r) Interior view of the sanctuary of the Mer Rouge Methodist Church which was renovated last year; Interior view of the Sicily Island Methodist Church which was redecorated recently; New Methodist parsonage of the St. Paul's Methodist Church, Monroe, one of two new churches in Monroe to be organized this year.



1st row: (l to r) New Oak Grove Methodist Church, completed in 1951; the Delhi Methodist Church with Educational Building and edge of new parsonage.

2nd row: The Claiborne Methodist Church, West Monroe. This congregation plans additional educational facilities; the Wisner Methodist Church, showing recently added educational facilities.

3rd row: The Brownville Methodist Church, West Monroe; Another West Monroe new sanctuary just completed, The McGuire Methodist Church.

4th row: View of the new Educational Building of the Bastrop Methodist Church; Educational Building of the Memorial Methodist Church, Monroe, 1st unit in this congregation's building program. Building is also being used for worship purposes until sanctuary is built.

5th row: A residence which has been converted to a Youth Building by the First Methodist church, West Monroe. Men's Sunday School Class of this church is housed in an additional building constructed at rear of Youth Building; Educational Building which has been added to the Sterlington Methodist Church.

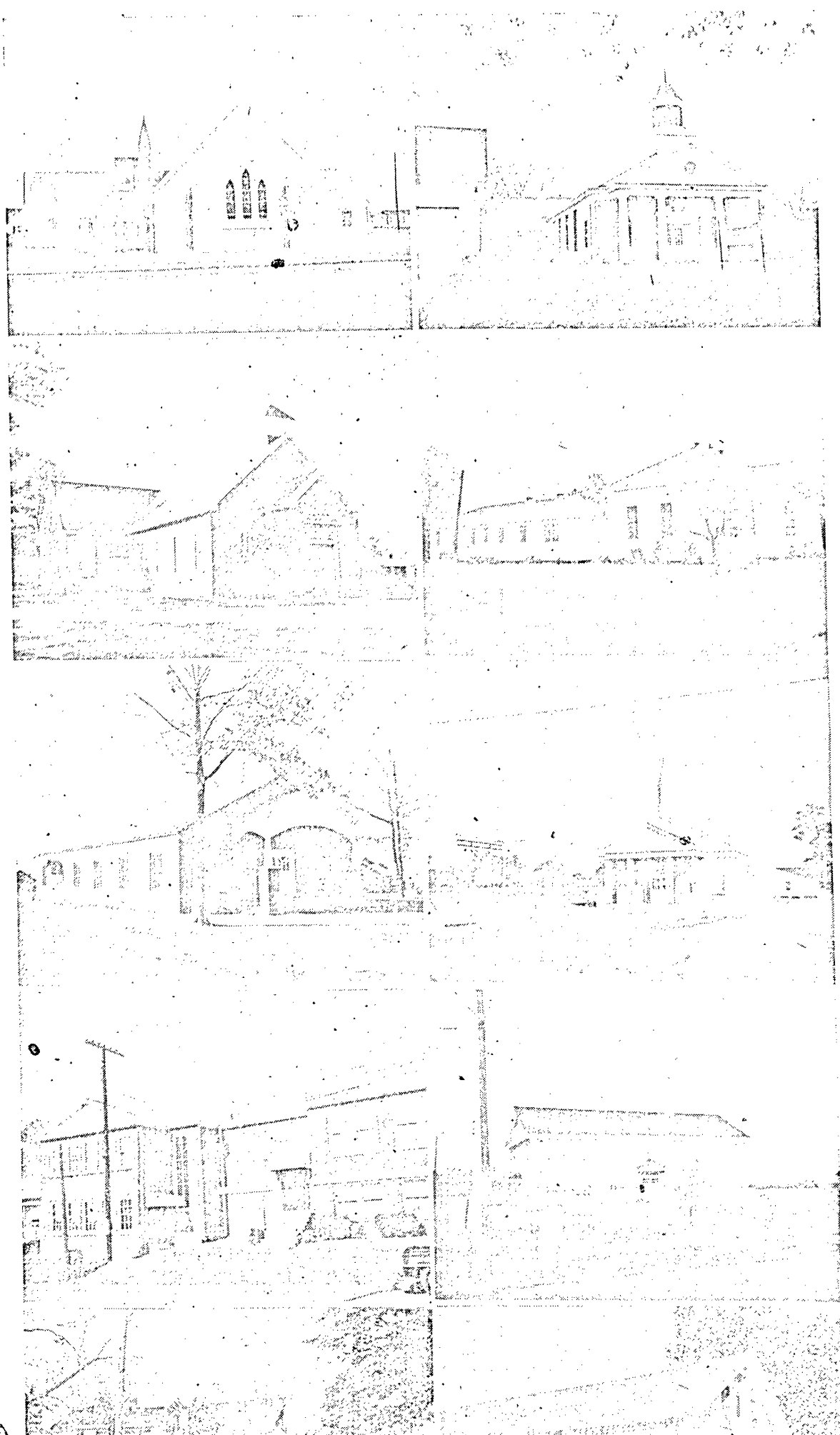
kitchen on the first floor while on the second floor is found three bedrooms and the pastor's home study.

Monroe has another new congregation which is getting off to a good start, the St. Paul's Methodist Church, in the northern section of Monroe. Rev. Ben Ray Oliphint is the pastor of this congregation, which chose as its first project the building of a parsonage. This new home, just completed at a cost of \$20,000, has living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and the pastor's study. The house has been constructed in such a way that additional rooms may be added at a later date. Plans for the erection of the first unit of the new church building are now being completed. To cost approximately \$80,000, the congregation has just finished a building fund campaign which assured the early erection of the unit. Members of the Church Planning and Building Committee include Shelby Hill, Charles E. Crown, Gene Demary, Claude Gilliland, Wilbur Usrey, Tom Pitt, Henry Princehouse, Slade Brown, and Dr. Oliphint. Members of the Parsonage Building Committee included Shelby Hill, Chairman, Wilbur Usrey, Slade Brown and Mrs. Oliphint. This congregation was organized in June and now has a membership of 235.

The first unit of the church plant for the Memorial Methodist Church in Monroe was constructed four years ago. Of brick veneer construction and built at a cost of \$65,000 this building is housing for the present the Memorial worship and educational program. Built during the pastoral administration of Rev. George Pearce, Jr., the building is located only a few blocks from the campus of the Northeast Louisiana State College in Monroe and has shown remarkable growth since its organization. Rev. Ralph Cain is the pastor. The congregation has also purchased a home for the pastor which is located next to the present church building.

In West Monroe, the First Methodist Church purchased three years ago the property immediately to the back of the present building location and converted the two story residence on the purchased property to a Youth building at a cost of \$20,000. This made possible the expansion of the church school program. There was soon thereafter erected a building also on the new site another building which presently houses the men classrooms. This latter project was accomplished at a cost of \$8,200 including furnishings. More than \$2,350 has also been spent on improvements to the parsonage and in addition more than \$16,500 has been spent in an air conditioning and redecoration program in the sanctuary. New furnishings for the sanctuary were included in the latter figure. This West Monroe con-

RECENT BUILDING PROGRAMS MONROE DISTRICT



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

REV. JAMES W. WORKMAN, JR., pastor of Wesley Church, Springdale, preached at the union Thanksgiving service in Springdale on Tuesday evening, November 25.

DR. J. W. WORKMAN, chaplain at Ft. Roots, North Little Rock, will speak to the Men's Club of the First Methodist Church, Batesville, on Friday, December 12.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN dedicated the French Grove Methodist Church on the Rector Circuit on Saturday, November 29. Rev. Walter Abbe is pastor.

MISS ELIZABETH WORKMAN of Conway taught the course, Teaching Children, in a three-day Training School this week at the First Methodist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana.

UNION THANKSGIVING services were held at the First Baptist Church in Piggott on Wednesday evening, November 26, with Rev. Jesse L. Johnson, pastor of Piggott Methodist Church, preaching the sermon.

REV. JESSE L. JOHNSON, pastor at Piggott, was guest speaker at the meeting of the Kiwanis Club in Holcomb, Missouri, on Monday evening, November 17. The club meets in the fellowship hall of the Methodist Church.

REV. GEORGE KLEEB, pastor of the Pea Ridge Methodist Church, brought the message at the Thanksgiving service held by the churches of Pea Ridge in the Baptist Church on Wednesday evening, November 26.

REV. H. C. MINNIS, pastor at Danville, preached at the Plainview Methodist Church on Sunday, November 2, and held a communion service. Rev. Oscar Hicks, the pastor, was attending the Undergraduate School at Batesville.

REV. OSCAR J. EVANSON, pastor of the Methodist Church of Waldron, preached the Thanksgiving sermon at the union service, held on Wednesday, November 26, at the First Baptist Church. Special music was given by the Baptist Youth Choir.

REV. G. C. TAYLOR, pastor at Osceola, is doing the preaching in evangelistic services at the Methodist Church of Atkins. The meeting began on Sunday, November 30, and will run through Sunday, December 7. Rev. George Stewart is pastor at Atkins.

REV. J. WILLIAM WATSON, pastor of the First Methodist Church, North Little Rock, was the speaker at the November meeting of the Methodist Men's Fellowship of Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock. Rev. I. L. Claud is pastor.

MILTON E. ERICKSON has been elected president of the newly organized Methodist Men of the Wesley Methodist Church of Pine Bluff. The organization has received its charter from the General Board of Lay Activities in Chicago. Rev. Winslow Brown is pastor of the church.

ROY GARLINGTON was elected president of the Methodist Men of Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, at its meeting on Tuesday, November 11. Other officers are E. W. Henson, vice-president, and E. R. Brummett, secretary-treasurer.

REV. WARREN D. GOLDEN, pastor of the Prescott Methodist Church, was the preacher at the Union Thanksgiving Services in Prescott sponsored by the Prescott Ministerial Alliance. Rev. Mr. Golden is the secretary-treasurer of the Prescott organization.

REV. H. E. PEARCE, pastor at Bentonville, gave the Thanksgiving addresses at the Bentonville P.T.A. meeting on Monday evening, November 24, and at the Kiwanis Club dinner on Tuesday evening and preached the sermon on Wednesday evening for the union services at the Presbyterian Church.

THE METHODIST MEN of Goddard Memorial Methodist Church, Fort Smith, met at the church on Thursday, November 13, with more than sixty-five men in attendance. Rev. Clarence Pruett of Van Buren brought the address and group singing was enjoyed. Rev. Alfred A. Knox is pastor of Goddard Memorial Church.

REV. BOONE L. WILFORD, pastor of the Methodist Church at Caraway, preached the sermon at the union Thanksgiving service at 8:00 a. m. on Thursday, November 27. Brother Wilford writes: "Mrs. Wilford and I expect to spend the holidays in Long Beach, California, with our daughter, Ailee, who is teaching in Long Beach State College. Our church was so gracious as to call us in and hand us a check for \$300.00 to help on our trip."

DR. HARRY A. LITTLE, superintendent of Little Rock schools, and chairman of the Board of Christian Education of the First Methodist Church, Little Rock, will head a UNESCO education mission to the Philippines, leaving on January 1 for Paris for a two-weeks' orientation period before going to Manila. He has received a year's leave of absence from the Little Rock schools, and will be accompanied by Mrs. Little. Dr. Little was recommended for the position by the National Education Association.

THE last in a series of services on the great conversations of Jesus was held on Sunday evening, November 30, at the First Methodist Church, Russellville. Rev. Harold Eggenberger, pastor. The subject was "Jesus Speaks to Men of Our Day." Speakers were R. M. Priddy, Sunday School superintendent, Wyatt Newbern, chairman of the Board of Stewards and Van A. R. Moores, chairman of the Board of Trustees. Leader for the service was John Rye, chairman of the Committee on Lay Activities.

A SEVIER COUNTY METHODIST COUNCIL was organized on Sunday, November 16, at Lockesburg. Rev. Alfred I. Doss, pastor of First Church, DeQueen, was elected president of the council, which is made up of pastors, Sunday School superintendents, chairmen of the Board of Stewards, Woman's Society of Christian Service presidents and Methodist Youth Fellowship presidents from each church in the county. Jim Manning of DeQueen was appointed chairman of lay speaking in the county.

REV. AND MRS. DOYLE T. ROWE, assisted by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Stephens Methodist Church, held open house at the parsonage on Sunday afternoon, November 23. Extensive work has been done at the parsonage since June and the church membership and friends were invited to visit the pastor and his wife and view the improvements. Ninety-five guests called during the afternoon. Refreshments were served from the beautifully appointed dining table.

UNION THANKSGIVING SERVICES were held at the First Methodist Church, Blytheville, on Thursday morning, November 27, with Dr. Alfred Vise, rabbi of Temple Israel, presiding. The sermon was delivered by Rev. W. J. Fitzhugh of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rev. E. C. Brown, pastor of Huntington Avenue Methodist Church, gave the invocation and the responsive reading was led by Rev. Roy Bagley, pastor of the First Methodist Church. Rev. Robert McMaster, pastor of Lake Street Methodist Church, read the scripture and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Robert Petrovich.

REV. M. A. GRAVES, retired Methodist minister, and Mrs. Graves, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Sunday, November 23, at Wynne with a family reunion. Five sons and daughters, thirteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren attended. They were Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Graves and family of Greenwood, Miss.; Mr. and Mrs. George Graves of Columbus, Ga.; Mrs. Frank Clark of Claude, Texas; Mrs. Riley Ford and family and Mrs. Mary Young

PRESCOTT CHURCH ADOPTS ADVANCE SPECIAL

The First Methodist Church, Prescott, has adopted as an Advance Special the support of a Ministerial student of the Gujarat Annual Conference who is studying in a seminary in the Gujarat Annual Conference in India, according to an announcement by Rev. Warren D. Golden, Prescott pastor. Rev. Mr. Golden also announced that Mrs. J. A. White, member of the Prescott church, is personally assuming a similar Advance Special. The amount necessary for the support of a ministerial student is \$250 annually and these funds are being raised by the Prescott congregation through four adult Sunday School classes and one youth class that are each contributing \$1.00 weekly.

According to the pastor, the congregation reached the decision to undertake this project following a recent visit to Prescott by Dr. W. Ferrel Pledger, missionary to the Gujarat Conference who is completing a tour of Arkansas under the auspices of the General Board of Missions. Dr. Pledger is home on furlough at the present time.

and family of Wynne. Many gifts and congratulatory messages were received. Brother Graves is a member of the North Arkansas Conference.

POST-THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

lead to many hurtful experiences. When Paul says the Romans "were not thankful, but"—he states, as if it would logically follow, that they were guilty of many unwholesome, sordid experiences unworthy of anyone created in the image of God.

THE GENERAL'S JOURNEY

(Continued from page 1)

sincere effort has been made by the United States and the United Nations to bring hostilities to an end.

It will be argued that to end one Korea may be to provoke another similar situation elsewhere, and that the only way to resolve the seemingly impossible difficulties is to get at the root of the whole trouble, Communism anywhere and everywhere. That may very well be, but the present conflict is being waged between United Nations forces and northern Korean-Chinese forces who have been duped into fronting for Communists leaders of Russia. It is quite likely that when other "Korean" situations crop out elsewhere it will be where these same leaders have been successful in duping others to continue the fight for them. The General's journey could become the turning point for the U. N.

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HOW FREE CAN WE BE?

We Americans pride ourselves on being a free people. We boast that ours is a land of free speech, free ballots, free enterprise, free churches. Liberty is one of the dearest words in our language, and especially so today when the most crucial single public issue is the preservation of free society in a frightened and increasingly fettered world.



And yet with all our talk about liberty, how free can we really be?

Today and yesterday many of us exercised our freedom of assembly and our freedom of worship. We went to the church of our choice and no police guards barred our entrance or exit. Yet in our churches we feel under certain restraint as to our conduct. Refined people do not rush in and out noisily while others are engaged in reverent worship.

Today in our churches freedom of speech is exercised. And yet in the house of God something restrains cultured laymen from standing up and shouting what they think during the service. And though the preacher enjoys a free pulpit, if he is a good minister of the gospel he does not feel at liberty to say everything that comes into his head.

Yes, we pride ourselves that in America we enjoy freedom of conscience. But when is a conscience free? Some of us may know what is right and yet be so bound by habit that we have not the power to do the right. And others of us may be so clouded by prejudice and so blinded by passion that we do not even SEE what is right. I repeat the question, "How free can we be?"

Let's test ourselves by a principle laid down in the Epistle of James, the second chapter, the 12th verse: "So speak and so do as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

To speak of the law of liberty seems paradoxical doesn't it? We think of law as restraint put on liberty. But the fact is that even freedom has its laws. Consider God himself. God is omnipotent. We refer to him as Almighty God. But does this mean that God can do anything he pleases? Not in the sense we commonly use the expression, "do as we please." God has set limits to what he can do. Granted that it is God himself who sets limits to his own actions. Nevertheless, limits are set. God has to set laws by which he himself is governed, if his children are to comprehend him and live under his rule. Granted that an omnipotent God could make stones fall upward as well as downward. But how could we live in a universe where stones fall toward the earth today and perhaps away from it tomorrow, where it is wrong to steal on Mondays and Wednesdays and right to steal on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Through long ages of experience, man has come to the conclusion that this is a law-abiding universe. The Almighty God obeys his own laws, because he is the Heavenly Father of rational beings who otherwise could not understand and love him. Hence God himself is judged by the law of liberty.

Now let us apply this law of liberty to ourselves. First in one's handling of himself. William Henley, who made such a gallant fight against physical infirmity, asserted, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." But sober second thought reveals that while a man may SEEM to be the captain of his soul, he certainly is not quite the master of his fate.

Forces outside ourselves often play upon us with such force that we can hardly control them. As Shakespeare said in Hamlet, "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, Rough-hew them how we will."

And to speak personally, twice within recent years, I have been in accidents which proved fatal to others in the same conveyance. Why did I happen to escape? More than one of my friends have answered, "Because your number hasn't been called."

Well, I am not a fatalist. I believe there must be some reason and purpose behind all such events. But the explanations are beyond me. And also beyond me are many forces which play through circumstance, through heredity and environment.

Powerful as environment is, we need not surrender it. Jane Addams and Al Capone came out of the same Chicago slums. Whatever the limitations of the circle in which our lot is cast, we have the freedom to make

Bishop Paul E. Martin, on December 4th at 7:00 p. m., led the First Methodist Church, McGehee, Arkansas, in a celebration of their recent victory in a Stewardship Revival. His words were an inspiration to those who had responded to a challenge and who have ahead of them much hard work.

Fay Joyner and Dick Swantz, co-chairmen of the Revival, called for reports from their Section leaders, Taylor Prewitt, Sam Bowman, Gale Rowland, and Dale Loyd. They, in turn, called on their Captains to give final reports for their teams. As was expected, the total raised in pledges, payable in 100 weeks time, exceeded the goal of \$60,000. \$25,000 in cash is expected by January 7th. Construction will begin the early part of 1953 on the McGehee building expansion program.

Bishop Martin spoke at another Victory Dinner for a similar Stewardship Revival in the Oak Forest Methodist Church during September of 1950. That endeavor exceeded the goal of \$60,000 in new pledges payable in 150 weeks time. Because of this successful program, that Church secured a loan and completed its lovely edifice. Under the leadership of the Rev. George Meyer, that congregation is ahead on payments on its debt.

The need that existed in these two churches is typical of the need in many churches. The method used in meeting this need may be worthy of consideration by other churches.

What, then, is a Stewardship Revival, and how may a congregation achieve one?

—I—

Talk to the Father about the need. Yes. It is His work. He's more concerned with it than we possibly can be.

Therefore, place it in His hands. Commit that act of faith. He will direct the Revival and cause it to succeed, despite the weaknesses of man.

the most of it.

What crimes have been committed in the name of liberty! Napoleon mouthed the word as he spread his sway over Europe. But the irony of it was shown by one of Napoleon's marshals who addressed the people of a region he had conquered in these words: "We have come to bring you liberty and equality, but don't let that go to your heads, for the first one who makes a move without my permission will be shot."

If we of America "so speak and so do as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty", we shall convince the watchful and suspicious world that we are a Christian nation and that hope lies in the cross rather than in the crescent and sickle of Communism.

—II—

The way to get money is to be interested in something else even more. More than anything else, the Stewardship Revival must be a spiritual undertaking. Its only justification is that men might be built in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. The reason for erecting a building is that a church might better reach and hold people.

Where there is a vision, the means are available for bringing it to pass.

—III—

The emphasis must be placed on sacrificial giving. That is the term to use. When Methodism makes up its mind on tithing, that might be the emphasis. Right now, that term incites reactions that are uncertain.

Sacrifice must be preached. And the pastor must practice it.

In a Stewardship Revival, confession is not made verbally. It is made in deed and gift. A sacrificial gift will ignite religious fires as no other single act in our religious experience.

—IV—

As a church brings in a preacher for a series of services, so must it bring in an outside minister or worker for the Stewardship effort. This is the key to the whole program. This is indispensable. The endeavor is of such magnitude that an able man, free to devote his full time and energy on the project, is necessary.

At Oak Forest, Mr. Ashley Hale of the Wells Organization directed the program.

The McGehee Board of Stewards invited the Rev. J. Edwin Keith, one of the pastors of First Church, Little Rock, to direct its Revival. Brother Keith is eminently qualified in this field because of his natural ability, his work with Dr. Aubrey Walton in his own church, and his relationship to Mr. Hale, who directed the great campaign in First Church, Little Rock, several years ago.

One of these efforts requires about
(Continued on page 14)

NEW INSIGHTS FROM THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION

By
DR. ROY L. SMITH

LET'S ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Outdo one another in showing honor—Romans 12:10.

In honor preferring one another.—King James Version

Only God can know what a success some people would make of their Christian life, if they had a little more encouragement from their

fellow Christians.

It is a great temptation to feel that we are successful as Church members when we have been elected to some high office, put at the head of the committee, or had our names included in the list that went into the cornerstone.

Take time some day to browse through your New Testament and see how many times the early Church assembled for the purpose of heartening one another. Note the number of times Paul confessed that he had been put on his feet again by the solicitude and the encouragement of some of the brethren.

If the modern Church would spend more of its time pouring confidence down into the souls of the saved, expressing faith in its leaders and its membership, it might be surprised at the number of the unsaved who would be attracted by this kind of kindness.

The late Dr. William L. Stidger made it a rule for many years to write one letter a day to some person who was doing a good Christian

job in some difficult place. In his own inimitable style he would say, "I've been watching you, and I'm proud of you. God bless you. Keep it up!" And there are hundreds of hard-working Christians who have taken heart and renewed their efforts after receiving one of his "booster billets."

There was the church school teacher in one fashionable congregation who came to his pastor, very dejectedly, and said, "I guess I had better give up my class of boys. I have been teaching them for three years now, and not once in all that time has any parent ever mentioned to me the fact that their son was in my class. I guess I've not done much, and the sooner I quit the better."

"I don't dare cave in," the young man said. "At least twenty people in the old home church have written me telling me that they believe in me. I can't let them down." And a little encouragement from the saints saved one boy from sinning.

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

We are glad to report that a complete staff has been secured for the Arkansas Pastors' School for 1953, July 6-10. The following persons have accepted invitation as members of the Pastors' School Staff:

Dr. Max B. Stokes of Emory University.

Dr. Earl D. C. Brewer of Emory University.

Dr. Donald M. Maynard, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. G. Ray Jordan of Emory University.

Dr. Mary Alice Jones of the Local Church Division Staff, General Board of Education.

The faculty for the 1952 Pastors' School was a great faculty, but we believe that the faculty for 1953 will be just as great.

You will want to begin making plans now to attend the Pastors' School, June 6-10, 1953.

Cotter Area Training School

The Cotter Area Training School was held November 23-25, with the following churches participating: Bull Shoals; Gassville; Cedar Grove; Yellville; Cotter; and Mountain Home. The following courses were offered in the school:

Friendship and Marriage, Earle Cravens.

A Preface to the Bible, James S. Upton.

How to Improve the Church School, Ira A. Brumley.

Fifty people were enrolled in the school.

Mrs. James S. Upton of Conway has recently been certified for the course on A Preface to the Bible. She recently taught this course in the Fort Smith Training School.

The Forrest City District has carried out a splendid series of local church training schools this Conference Year. The following schools have been reported to our office:

Helena has had two different schools, taught by the pastor, Rev. E. J. Holifield: Friendship and Marriage, and How to Teach in the Church School.

Marion had a one-unit school on Christian Beliefs, taught by the pastor, Rev. Alf A. Eason.

Earle had a one-unit school on How to Teach in the Church School, taught by the pastor, Rev. Gaither McKelvey.

Lexa had a one-unit school on The Educational Work of the Small Church, taught by the pastor, Rev. Porter Weaver.

Marvell had a one-unit school, taught by the District Superintendent, Rev. Ethan Dodgen, offering the course on the Educational Work of the Small Church.

Reports from the Lake Street, Blytheville, Church, indicates that they have recently organized their Nursery Home Program with an enrollment of ten children; and an Adult Home Department with eight members. That means 18 new members for that church school. There are more than three hundred church schools in the North Arkansas Conference, which should start a Nursery Home Program, and 270 churches that should begin work on Adult Home Program.

Leaflets Being Sent

Churches not having reported Nursery Home Program or Adult Home Program for the past Conference Year are being sent the Nursery Home Leaflet or the Adult Home Leaflet or both, depending on whether they fail to have one or both of these extension programs.

It is our hope that many hundred Nursery Home Members and Adult Home Members will be served by our church schools beyond the number served during the past Conference Year.

Conference Youth Assembly

The Conference Youth Assembly of the North Arkansas Conference is to be held on the Hendrix Campus, June 2-6, 1953. It is not too early to begin making plans to have the youth of your church represented in this assembly.

Senior Adult Assembly

The Senior Adult Assembly is to be held on the Hendrix Campus, June 29-July 2, being one day longer in 1953 than in 1952. Why not begin making plans now to have your church represented in the Older Adult Assembly? This program has been conducted during the past two years with splendid results.

Formal Training Report

The churches of the North Arkansas Conference report more than 1300 training credits taken during the first six months of the Conference Year, with two of the districts having not yet carried out very much of the training program they expect to have during the year. Thus far this has probably been the best training year of the North Arkansas Conference.

Response to Coaching Conference

We have had a splendid response from persons invited to participate in the Coaching Conference to be held March 9 and 10. Thus far 30 persons have indicated their intention of being in this program. Only two have written that they find it impossible to be in the program.

Rev. M. Earl Cunningham of the General Board of Education is to be our Resource Leader for this program.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE ADULT COUNCIL MEETING

THE Adult Council of the Little Rock Conference met at First Church Malvern, Saturday, November 22, with Roland M. Shelton, Conference Director of Adult Work, in charge of the meeting. The following District Directors were present: E. D. Trice from the

the most practical methods of procedure.

2. The Council recommends the forming of new classes as one of the most effective ways of building membership and attendance as well as affording a more appropriate learning situation.

3. The discovery, enlistment, and training of needed leadership, where practical offering one of the standard adult training classes, and in other situations institutes and such types of informal training opportunities.

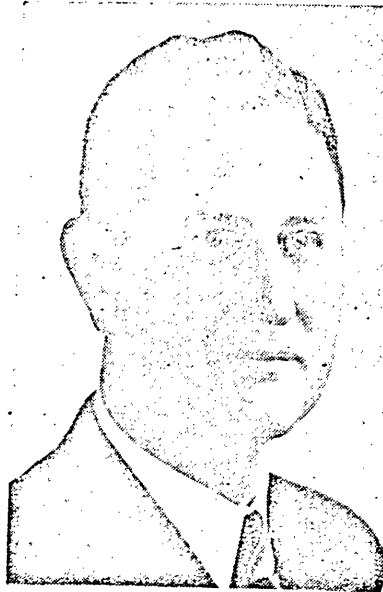
4. The Council was of the opinion that increased attention should be given to more adequate and usable records, giving needed information about the individual student and his family relationships, this information to be kept as simple as practical and in a usable form.

5. Building the Adult Home membership. It is the suggestion of the Council that home members be listed in classes of their own group, with the superintendent of the divisions charged with the responsibility of seeing that the lists are kept and the home contacts made.

6. Building a more effective District organization. At this point a three-fold suggestion is: (1) the selection of an Associate District Director to be in charge of Young Adult Work; (2) organization of sub-districts by Young Adult Work in all of the districts of the Conference; and (3) the holding of a planning conference for district and sub-district officers at the beginning of each annual conference year.

7. Emphasis on the Adult camping program, with (1) a continuation of the Young Adult camping program on an enlarged scale, and (2) provision made for Senior adults (65 and above) either in camp or assembly.

8. The Council would encourage adult classes to share in the "1000 Club" now being organized and promoted by the Board of Lay Activities in the interest of home missions and church extension.—Roy E. Fawcett



ROLAND M. SHELTON
Conference Director
of Adult Work

Hope District, B. F. Allbright of the Little Rock District, and Louis W. Averitt of the Monticello District. Others present were Truman Spencer, Conference President of the Young Adults, George Meyer, Director of the Conference Camping Program, and Roy E. Fawcett, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education.

Out of the discussions came the following recommendations as suggested guidance for the promotion of the Conference program of adult work:

1. Emphasis on building of membership and increasing of average attendance, stressing the locating of prospects and visitation as one of

needs in the programs for children, youth, and adults. Bishop Martin has been on the General Board of Education for two quadrennia and is now chairman of the Local Church Division.

In the afternoon the following groups met: Wesley Foundation Directors, Directors of Children's Work, Directors of Youth Work, and a fourth group, consisting of all other representatives.

Centenary College was host to the conference and provided lunch at the cafeteria.

Action Program

Among the actions recommended by the conference were the following:

Pastors to lead officers and teachers and local Commission on Education in a study of the educational task of the church. Study book to be recommended.

Local church surveys to determine number of children, youth, and adults on church rolls and how many are being reached.

Special attention to be given to youth program.

Evangelism program to include classes of instruction for all prospective church members.

Board of Lay Activities to promote a "Thousand Member Club" for the Conference, each member pledged to pay \$10.00 to each new church extension project approved by the Conference Advance Committee.

February be designated as month of tithing.

Advance mission specials be continued and Fourth Sunday be used for missionary education.

Methodist Youth Fund, the youth mission special, to be increased.

College student work to be more widely recognized.

Each district staff to be activated for planning and action by the district superintendent, assisted by Conference staff.

The best kind of leadership is that which produces fellowship.—Christian Advocate.

PLANNING CONFERENCE AT SHREVEPORT OUTLINES TASK FOR 1952-56

Bishop Paul Martin met, November 10, with a planning conference consisting of the district superintendents, the Board of Education, district staffs, and representatives from the various boards to outline the quadrennial goals and suggest

a plan of action.

Dr. Bentley Sloane, Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Education, presented statistics showing gains and losses during the last quadrennium. Bishop Martin delivered the main address and outlined

METHODIST BISHOPS APPROVE SERVICE MEN'S PROGRAM

A PROGRAM to develop closer relations between men in the armed services and their home pastors was approved in Atlantic City, N. J., by the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church.

Under the program Methodist pastors would:

(1) Make special efforts to get names of men and women in the services from their communities. (2) Form lay committees to aid in the project. (3) Alert their congregations on the program. (4) Keep in touch with service men through letters and gifts. (5) Inform the men's chaplains of their presence in the unit. Although the program will begin soon in all of the Church's episcopal areas, Richmond, Va., was chosen as a "pilot" area where the details will be worked out. Bishop A. Frank Smith of Houston, Tex., vice-chairman of the Commission, told the Council that the future of the Church might rest on the religious attitudes of returning service men. The bishops also were scheduled to discuss methods of making churchgoers out of the 20 million young people in the U. S. who have no religious connections.

Graham To Conduct Evangelistic Crusade in Korea

Evangelist Billy Graham has announced plans to go to Korea in December to conduct an evangelistic crusade among United Nations fighting men. The evangelist is conducting a crusade in Albuquerque, N. M., which is scheduled to end Nov. 30. When finished there, he will go to Hollywood to appear in two films and fly to Honolulu on Dec. 5. He plans to deliver his regular Sunday network radio broadcast from Hawaii Dec. 7, the 11th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, and expects to be in Tokyo Dec. 9. Dr. Graham said he will conduct revivals for civilians, missionaries and military personnel in Tokyo and hopes to be in Korea by Dec. 14 to conduct five-day evangelistic crusades at Pusan and Seoul. He plans to spend Christmas at the front. After that, Dr. Graham said he would continue a trip around the world, including stops in Formosa, India and London—where he will make a broadcast Jan. 12. His next United States revival will begin Jan. 18, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Reports Methodists Thriving in East Germany

Methodist churches are thriving in the Soviet sectors of Germany and Austria and there is little evidence there of governmental interference with them, Bishop Arthur J. Moore of Atlanta, Ga., said in Atlantic City, N. J. Reporting to The Methodist Council of Bishops on his recent five-week tour of Europe, Bishop Moore said that there has been a general increase in Methodist church membership in the two Communist-controlled areas. Sixty per cent of Germany's 150,000 Methodists live in the Soviet Zone, he said, and the rise in church membership has been more rapid there than in West Germany. "There actually is less governmental interference in church affairs than has been suspected by American observers," Bishop Moore said. He added, however, that the Church had been forced to set up a seminary in East Germany because government authorities refused to permit Soviet Zone students to travel to Frankfurt, where the only Methodist seminary in Germany was located.

Store Gives Ten Per Cent to Churches

A suburban Portland merchant has inaugurated a ten per cent plan to aid seven churches in the shopping area. Purchasers of items from Catir's, Inc., a department store,

may designate their church as ten percenters. One tenth of the sum spent in the store from 6 to 9 p. m. on Saturdays and Mondays goes in cash directly to the church named. Norman Catir, owner-manager, conceived the idea to benefit his own Clark Memorial Methodist church, but extended it when he saw the effect it had on business.

Two New Religious Films Being Made

Two new religious movies are being produced in Hollywood by Paul F. Heard Inc. under the general supervision of S. Franklin Mack director of films for the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches. They are "The Hidden Heart," a psychological drama concerning the conflict between Christian faith and materialism in a father and his daughter, and "For Every Child," which deals with the spiritual needs of children. "For Every Child," a documentary in color, is designed for use in connection with Christian Education Week in 1953. Raising of funds to meet production costs is being organized by the National Council's Division of Christian Education.

Richmond Theologian Wins Publishing House Award

Dr. John Bright, faculty member of Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., was announced in Nashville, Tenn., as the 1952 winner of the Abingdon-Cokesbury Press

\$7,500 award for his manuscript "The Kingdom of God." Officials of the publishing firm said the manuscript, selected by a six-man board of well-known theologians and professors, would be brought out as a book probably next fall. They described it as "a history of the Biblical idea of 'the people of God' as related to Christianity today." The Abingdon-Cokesbury award was established in 1948 to "encourage distinguished writing in the broad field of evangelical Christianity."

Newspaper Gives Entire Front Page to Religious Appeal

Norwalk Connecticut's daily newspaper, The Norwalk Hour, turned over the entire front page of its Nov. 19 edition to an editorial urging Americans to strive for a

Christian world and to "give a little more of yourselves to God's purpose. The editorial appeared in three columns of 24-point type (average newspaper type-size is 8-point) under a two-line streamer across the page saying "In the Balance — The Christian World." The startling action brought the newspaper a flood of congratulatory letters, telegrams and phone calls from laymen and clergymen of all religious groups. In New York, officials of national newspaper organizations could recall no similar instance of a secular daily devoting its whole front page to such a religious exhortation.) Charles E. Kellogg, general manager of the Hour, said a national radio program and two nationally circulated magazines had called within 24 hours of the editorial's appearance asking permission to quote it in broadcasts and stories.

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Customer's Point of View





THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



CHRISTMAS AT HOME AND ABROAD

IN many places in this big world, boys and girls are as excited about the coming of Christmas as you are. Everybody everywhere has secrets, or so it seems. Presents are bought or made, wrapped and hidden, or taken to the post office

with ice and snow at Christmas, and in other parts children could have picnics out-of-doors in the warm sunshine. For weeks people in the United States have been preparing for Christmas, and there they decorate the outside of their homes as



to be sent to friends who live too far away for you to visit them. And what fun it is to get things through the mail at Christmas.

It is winter-time in Canada, and it will probably be snowing there, but the postman will trudge through the snow with his heavy bag and leave the presents at the doors where they belong. But there are many very cold places in Canada, and some very lonely and quiet places, too, and in some of those far-away places the postman will carry his mail on a sleigh pulled by dogs that like the snow and cold.

Not far from Canada is a very large country, the United States. It is so big that some parts are covered

well as the inside. Electrically lighted candles may shine in every window in some homes. Others have electric lights all in and out and around the bushes that grow in the front of their homes. Perhaps you will see a gay Santa and sled on somebody's roof, or a big star or moon all shining with electric lights on another roof. Things are very gay and sparring in the snowy parts of the United States.

In Italy, the people go to Church on Christmas Day and remember the birthday of the Baby Jesus in a very quiet way. Their day of real excitement comes when ours is all over. But the children do have a brightly decorated tree for Christ-

THE FAIRY ARTIST

By Neillie M. Garabrant

Oh, there is a little artist,
Who paints in the cold night hours;
Pictures for wee, wee children
Of wondrous, trees and flowers.

Pictures of snow-white mountains,
Touching the snow white sky;
Pictures of distant oceans,
Where pigmy ships sail by.

The moon is the lamp he paints by.
His canvas, the window-pane;
His brush is the frozen snow-flake,
Jack Frost, the artist's name.

—From Poems for the
Children's Hour

TO SANTA CLAUS

Dear Santa, if you plan this year
A lot of things for me,
I'm asking that you bring a few,
Just maybe two or three.

There are so many girls and boys
I hope that you'll remember.
They'll all be looking for you
On this night in December.

So please see that every girl
And boy the whole world 'round
Knows some of the happiness
That at this time is found.

—A.E.W.

JUST FOR FUN

He sent his precious poem to the editor: "Let me know at once whether you can use it," he wrote, "as I have other irons in the fire."

In a few days the answer came from the editor. "Remove irons, insert poem."—Ex.

A young mother was bathing her baby and a neighbor's little girl was holding a doll minus an arm and a leg.

"How long have you had your baby?" asked the little visitor.

"Three months," replied the mother. And the little girl said:

"My but you've kept her nice.—
"Public Utility News

The 3rd grade was learning the letters of the alphabet.

"What comes after T?" the teacher asked.

Ella quickly replied, "V".—Velda Blumhagen, Instructor

A new bungalow was named "The Nutshell." It bore its name only a fortnight, because the owner became exasperated by boys who called nearly every day to ask, "Is the colonel in?"



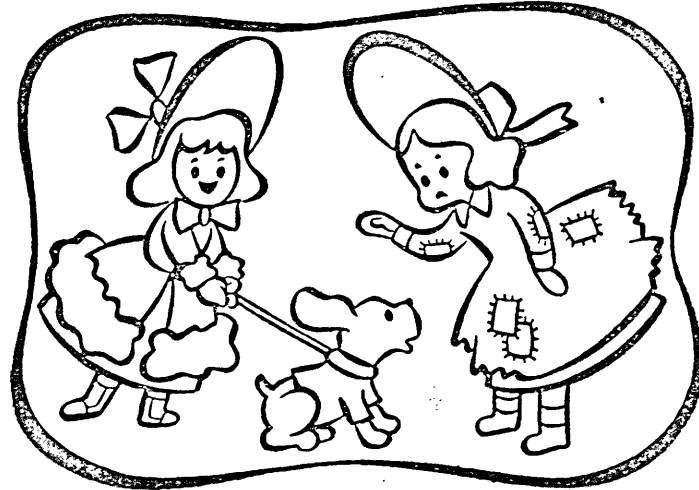
PART 8

ANN AND THE LITTLE PUPPY

Bobby Is Recognized

The days passed swiftly. It was almost Christmas. One bright winter day Ann and her grandmother took Bobby for a walk in Washington Square. Bobby was proud in a little sweater that Ann's grandmother had knitted for him. They walked past

a park bench where a little girl was sitting with her father. As the dog walked by, the child stood up in sudden excitement. She seized her father's arm and started to run after Ann and the little dog. "Wait!" she called, "Wait! That's my dog!"



PART 9

Whose Puppy?

Ann stood still in amazement as the beautifully dressed little girl came running. She was very near Ann's own age, about seven. Kneeling down on the sidewalk, she hugged the little dog happily. "My name is Martha," she explained, "three weeks ago my little dog ran away and got lost and we've been looking

for him ever since! I'm so glad you found him!" She took hold of Bobby's leash. The puppy seemed glad to see her; but when Martha tried to lead him away, he whined and cried and tried to stay with Ann. Martha turned to her father. "He doesn't want to go. What shall we do?"

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. EWING T. WAYLAND, Editor

GUILDS OF LITTLE ROCK UNITE IN MISSION STUDY

Twelve Wesleyan Service Guilds of the Little Rock Methodist Churches' united in the Mission Study, "Home Missions and Human Rights", in four sessions, November 11, 14, 18 and 21, at the First Methodist Church, under the sponsorship of the Catherine Booe Guild of First Church with Miss Elizabeth Booe, Missionary Secretary, in charge, of arrangements.

Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, South Central Jurisdiction Secretary of Christian Social Relations, directed the study. Taking part were Mrs. Earl Cotton, Little Rock Conference Secretary of Christian Social Relations; Mrs. E. W. Masters, Little Rock District Guild Secretary; a panel composed of Miss Mollie Heath Conn, Mrs. J. T. Dorrough, and Mrs. A. B. Bonds, Jr.; and members of the various Guilds.

The offering will go to the purchase of two volumes of States Laws on Race and Color by Pauli Murray, one copy to be presented to the Little Rock Public Library and the other to the library of the Little Rock Junior College. The balance of the offering will go to Aldersgate Camp.—Reporter

NEW SOCIETY ORGANIZED ON GREENBRIER CIRCUIT

On October 26 eight women met the pastor, Rev. C. E. Martin, at the Centerville Church on the Greenbrier Circuit to organize a Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Della Atkinson; Vice-President, Mrs. Brownie Halsey; Secretary, Mrs. Lola Mae Brown; Treasurer, Mrs. Pearl Lee Halsey; Secretary of Missionary Education, Mrs. Imogene Phillips; Christian Social Relations, Mrs. Glenna Shumate.

On October 28 three members of Conway First Church, Mrs. J. C. Green, President; Mrs. Williams, Promotion Secretary, and Miss Ethel Millar, District Secretary of Christian Social Relations, met with the Centerville Society to give help along the various lines.—Mrs. Doyle Baker

MISSIONARY EDUCATION WORKSHOP HELD

Camden District Woman's Society of Christian Service held a Missionary Education Workshop for Workers with Children and Youth at First Methodist Church, El Dorado, November 22. Registration began at 9 o'clock. Rev. Connor Morehead, District Superintendent, led the morning worship period.

Mrs. J. P. Carpenter, District President, welcomed the group and made the announcements for the day.

The mission studies on "The American Indian" and "Africa" were presented under the direction of Mrs. J. S. Williamson and Mrs. Neill Hart.—Reporter

You must have long-range goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-range failures.—Chas. C. Noble, Forbes.

MISS GERHART IN LOUISIANA

Miss Lydia Gerhart of Orlando, Florida, is serving as Field Representative of the Department of Work in Home Fields under the Woman's Division of Christian Service. Before coming to this work in 1947, she served at the Deaconess Home and Settlement, Philadelphia and at the West Side Community House, Cleveland. In 1940 she became Superintendent of the Methodist Deaconess Home and West Side Community House at Cleveland.

Miss Gerhart started her itinerary in Louisiana November 25 at Arcadia, and has spoken since then at Blackwater, Opelousas, Bunkie, and Shreveport.

The schedule for the rest of her stay in Louisiana is as follows:

Dec. 7 —Monroe, District Guild

Dec. 8 —West Monroe, 9:00 a. m., Monroe District Woman's Society

Dec. 9 —Lake Charles, 10:00 a. m., Sub-District Woman's Society

Dec. 10—Crowley, 10:00 a. m., Sub-District Woman's Society

Dec. 11—First Methodist Church, New Orleans, 10:30 a. m. District Woman's Society

Dec. 11—Rayne Memorial, New Or-



LYDIA E. GERHART

leans, 7:00 p. m., District Guild

It is hoped that each local society will have a large group of its members attending these district meetings, which have been planned with the idea of informing as well as inspiring each member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild.

FINANCIAL REPORT—NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE SECOND QUARTER—1952-1953

RECEIPTS:

Pledge:	
W. S. C. S.	\$10,548.18
W. S. G.	2,670.72
Special Memberships:	
W. S. C. S.	309.00
W. S. G.	90.00
Special Projects:	
W. S. C. S.	640.42
W. S. G.	13.50
In Remembrance Gifts:	
W. S. C. S.	16.50
Children-Gifts to Mission:	
W. S. C. S.	23.25
Narcotic Education:	
W. S. C. S.	661.50
W. S. G.	111.30
Week of Prayer:	
W. S. C. S.	3,153.30
W. S. G.	645.15
Replace Membership Pins:	
W. S. C. S.	6.25
Supplies:	
W. S. C. S.	1,970.66
W. S. G.	110.45
Supplementary Gift:	
W. S. G.	5.00
Exchange: W. S. C. S.	5.55
World Federation:	
W. S. C. S.	9.82
Total, W. S. C. S.	14,929.55
Total, W. S. G.	3,649.12

Total received from District Treasurers	\$20,693.55
Methodist Youth Fund	120.39
Replace Membership Pin	2.25
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$20,816.19

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Division:	
Pledge:	
W. S. C. S.	\$10,594.13
W. S. G.	2,394.54
Special Memberships:	
W. S. C. S.	325.00
W. S. G.	85.00
Special Projects:	
W. S. C. S.	639.42
W. S. G.	13.50
In Remembrance Gifts:	
W. S. C. S.	16.50
World Federation:	
W. S. C. S.	11.29
Total, W. S. C. S.	11,596.34
Total, W. S. G.	2,493.04

Total Credit on Pledge	\$14,089.38
Methodist Youth Fund	120.39
Children-Gifts to Missions	23.25
Total Credit on Appropriations	\$14,233.02
Week of Prayer	3,804.45
Cash Supplies	227.11
Division Cultivation	37.77
Replace Membership Pins	6.75
Supplementary Gift	5.00
Total sent to Division	\$18,314.10

FOR PROMOTION:

Conference Youth Work	100.00
Town and Country Comm.	300.00
Narcotic Education	250.00
Car expense to Rural Workers	210.00
Insurance on Car	112.30
"Sunshine Fund", Sanatorium	25.00
1500 copies of Annual Report	822.23
Jurisdiction Cultivation	528.74
District Cultivation	792.56
Cash to Marjorie Bowden for bicycle	50.00
Conference Administration	239.89
Exchange	5.55
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$21,750.37

Balance September 1, 1952

Received 2nd quarter 1952-53

Total to be accounted for

Disbursed 2nd quarter, 1952-53

Balance December 1st, 1952

MRS. BEN DE VOLL, Conf. Treas.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

BATESVILLE DISTRICT: Youth: Lindley Williams, Newport 1st Church. Baby: Mary Alice Owens, Batesville Central Ave.; Marcia Lynn Buchanan, Batesville Central Ave. W. S. G.

CONWAY DISTRICT: Adult: Mrs. Myrtle Alewine, Atkins; Miss Esther Robinson, North Little Rock, Washington Ave.; Mrs. Imogene Brown Hammond, Conway District. Baby: James Andrew Berry, Conway District.

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT: Adult: Mrs. H. U. Brookhart, Sulphur Springs. Baby: Brooks Lucas Noble; Terry Lavon Center, Karen Ann Smith, Winslow; Teresa Turnbow, Cynthia Louise Cheyne, Charles Edwin McKinney, Springdale W. S. G.

FORREST CITY DISTRICT: Baby: Cordelia Louise Davison, Marvell; Benita Jean Meek, Belinda Jane Meek, West Memphis W. S. G.

FT. SMITH DISTRICT: Adult: Mrs. W. D. Halliburton, Mansfield; Mrs. O. V. Hunter, Van Buren 1st Church. Baby: Carol Ann Dixon, Michael Eugene Doran, Ft. Smith 1st Church; James Calvin Evans, Ft. Smith Goddard Memorial.

JONESBORO DISTRICT: Adult: Mrs. Carlton Jerry, Turrell; Mrs. Paul Bumpers, Jonesboro District; Mrs. H. L. Hickey, Mrs. W. E. Harrell, Jonesboro 1st Church W. S. G. Baby: Anita Josephine Powell, Black Oak.

PARAGOULD DISTRICT: Adult: Mrs. Don Richardson, Piggott. Baby: Elizabeth Reid, Priscilla Reid, Paragould 1st Church.

SEARCY DISTRICT: Adult: Hallie R. Yarnell, Searcy. Baby: T. C. Bull, Jr., McCrory W. S. G.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Eric Caviness, vice-president and program chairman of the Danville W. S. C. S., used the Week of Prayer program material and poster for an impressive program at the October meeting held in the home of Mrs. James F. Stewart. Mrs. C. R. George and Mrs. Baxter Gatlin had parts on the program. A special offering was made.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Luna Methodist Church met at the home of Mrs. J. L. Wright November 12. The meeting was called to order by the President. The discussion for the meeting was on Home Missions and Human Rights. There were 9 members and one visitor.

On November 19, 12 members and 6 guests met in the home of Mrs. Marshall Head for further study of "Home Missions and Human Rights," —Mrs. J. L. Wright

The three Circles of the Van Buren First Church met November 18 as follows: No. 1 at the home of Mrs. Cabol Rhodes; with Mrs. Fay Williams as leader; No. 2 with Mrs. William Campbell with Mrs. Lee Edwards as co-hostess. Mrs. Jean Seer led the worship program; No. 3 met with Mrs. W. D. Badgett, and Mrs. R. S. Wilson gave the devotional.—Mrs. Fay Williams

BISHOP PRAISES WOMAN'S ROLE

From the vantage point of his 90th year, Bishop Herbert Welch recently paid his tribute to the women whose names do not appear in Who's Who but who have helped to place their sons and husbands "in the dictionaries of notables."

In his address to the services for the late Leila White Mott, wife of Methodism's most widely-known layman, Dr. John R. Mott, Bishop Welch said: "We have often been told that in every outstanding career, whether of dignity or shame, we must find the secret of its force in some woman behind the scenes, prompting and stimulating."

"What does the world owe to women who have not themselves found a place in the dictionaries of the notables but who have helped to place their dear ones in such lists, content to hide in the shade of a great personality; to be king-maker rather than king; to be a power behind the throne instead of sitting on the throne; the mother who finds her crown of joy in the success and goodness of her children; the Hannah who trains a Samuel; the Mary who nourishes an infant Jesus."

"How these blessed mothers delight in giving love and toil and sacrifice that those children may fulfill their dreams. And fortunate indeed is the man who has found a comrade, a counsellor and an inspiration in the person of his wife."

Bishop and Mrs. Welch celebrated their own 60th wedding anniversary June 3, 1950.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE CO- ORDINATING COUNCIL MEETS

The Co-Ordinating Council of the North Arkansas Conference met October 22, Hulen Hall, Hendrix College, Conway, for a luncheon and a business session. The chairman, the Rev. Paul M. Bumpers, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Clarksville, presided over the business session.

The Council discussed the purpose of the organization, and how it might be realized. The chairman, Bro. Bumpers, stated, "It is not our purpose to develop a program, but to co-ordinate programs already established." The council, composed of members of the various boards and organizations of the conference, is supposed to clear conflicting dates and events, assist in consolidating meetings in order to save time and travel, and to correlate the activities of the conference in such a way as to enable all phases of the Church's program to be carried on acceptably.

A study was made of bulletins used by other conferences to present the total programs for a year to their respective conferences.

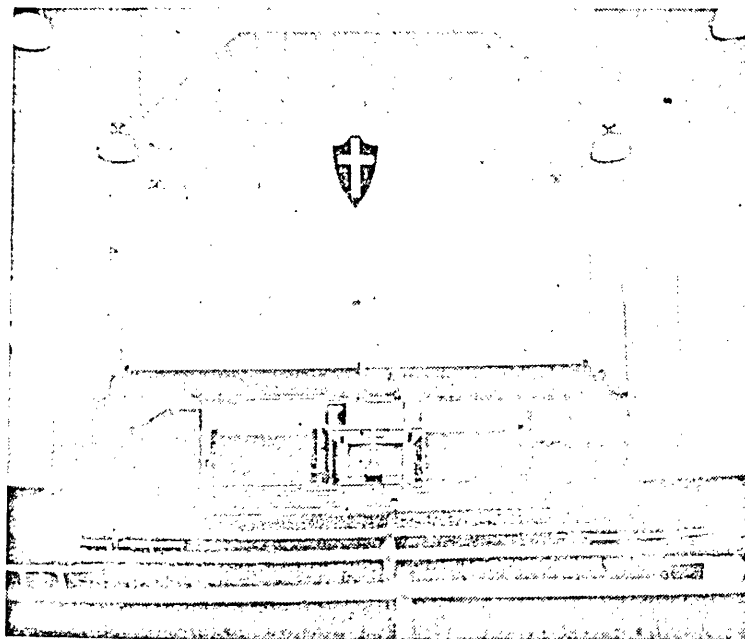
The council voted to have pre-conference meeting, Wednesday, June 10, 9:00 a. m., Fayetteville, for the purpose of beginning a format for a bulletin of this type for the North Arkansas Conference. In order that this may be done, it is the desire of the council that all Boards, Commissions, and organizations send all of the dates and data possible for the new conference year to its secretary, the Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Jr., Beebe, Arkansas, before the pre-conference meeting.

This format will be completed at a meeting of the council on Wednesday during Pastor's School. This will give every group time to report its dates and program for the new conference year.

The following dates were cleared for the remaining months of this conference year:

- October 27—November 5, Supply School, Batesville.
- November 7—8, MYF Sub-District Leaders, Conway.
- December 2, Fort Smith District Conference, Booneville.
- December 3, Fayetteville District Conference, Lincoln.
- December 4, Searcy District Conference, Harrison.
- December 5, Batesville District Conference, Mountain Home.
- December 8, Conway District Conference, Sylvan Hills, North Little Rock.
- December 9, Forrest City Conference, Brinkley.
- December 10, Paragould District Conference, Pocahontas.
- December 11, Jonesboro District Conference, Manila.
- December 31, Preparation For Year of Evangelism, Watch Night.
- January 11—18, Arkansas Methodist Week.
- February, Tithing Month For Entire Area.
- February 2—5, Minister's Week, S. M. U.
- February 9—10, Vacation Church

GREENWOOD COMPLETES BUILDING PROGRAM



GREENWOOD'S NEW SANCTUARY

THE new sanctuary in the Greenwood Methodist Church was filled Sunday with thankful people. After being out of the Church for eleven weeks, all the members were eager to see what had been wrought. The sanctuary has been remodeled and redecorated. Floor furnaces have been installed, new pews have been added, new hard wood floors and carpeting have been put down, a ventilating system has been installed, an organ has been placed in the Church, and many other improvements have come to pass.

One of the greatest changes is the altar and choir loft. The Church Building was joined to the Education Building, thereby making more room at the front of the sanctuary. The choir pews are elevated and they and the choir rails are finished in oak veneer. The piano is at one side

and the organ at the other. There is a curved kneeling rail outlining the altar.

The Greenwood congregation has been dreaming of a new sanctuary for years, and this June when Rev. Verlia Harris came as the new pastor, things began to happen.

An architect was consulted. A building committee was appointed with O. E. Roberts as chairman. Carpenters were hired and the work began. The ceiling was lowered and reshaped. A partition was removed, thereby creating more seating space. Windows were weatherstripped. The walls were plastered and painted, asphalt tile was put down in the vestibule, hardwood floors in the rest of the Church. A pastor's study and a new classroom were created from the old annex. The three floor furnaces were installed with thermostatic controls. The Wesleyan Ser-

vice Guild sponsored the drive for the Minshall electronic organ and raised the money to pay for it in full. Finishing touches included stained glass windows, a new front door, and asbestos shingles on the gables outside.

The color scheme was worked out by a decorating committee with Mrs. W. H. Lewis as chairman. The walls are painted mauve, the woodwork a darker shade of the same color, and the carpeting blends beautifully in allspice.

Although the purpose of remodeling was not to increase the seating capacity, the sanctuary will now seat 200 persons which is some more than it would seat formerly.

The work has been done at a cost of \$11,000.00, half of which has already been paid. It is hoped that the remainder will be raised next year.

The people of the Church have responded and cooperated in a wonderful way, and their enthusiasm in this effort has been an inspiration and a blessing to the whole Community.

The Greenwood Church has accepted the full amount it was asked on the Hendrix College Fund and is paying one-half this year and half next year. This Church is ready for District Conference with one-half of the year's budget paid in full.

Rev. Verlia Harris, pastor of the church, reports that he has never worked with a more co-operative group in any assignment than the members of his church. Within the next few weeks several of the former pastors of the church will return to the church, for speaking engagements. The first of these services was held Sunday, November 30, when Rev. J. J. Galloway spoke as guest speaker. Brother Galloway was pastor of the church when the present church building was built in 1900.—Mrs. Melton Gilbreth, Reporter.

THAT FALL CONFERENCE

In the November 6 issue my friend Robert S. Beasley puts in a plug for the return to the fall meeting of the Annual Conference. He points out some advantages that go with a fall meeting and I agree with him to that extent. However, I think the June meeting has more advantages.

1. The year is not broken for the school children of Parsonage families. Having been a school man myself, I know that it is not good for a child to be rooted up from one school to another in the same school year.

2. More of our school laymen are in a position to attend the June meeting as delegates. The A. E. A. meets in the fall and the conference would miss the fine counsel and support of our good Methodist School men.

3. Ministers whose wives teach would be at a very serious disadvantage. It would almost make it impossible for them to be employed in the school system. Wives almost find it necessary to teach if the parsonage family has children in college.

4. It is not necessary for the June meeting of the Annual Conference to interfere with the Pastor's School. If Pastors really want to come to

Pastors' school they can.

As far as this is concerned, Pastor's School could be held in the fall at the Hendrix Chapel or Mount Sequoyah. With the recent improvements that have been made at Mt. Sequoyah the Methodism of our South Central Jurisdiction could have an all year round program. This would relieve the congestion of the summer weeks and there would be a continuous building up of the church's program.—H. W. Jinske.

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Rev. Floyd G. Villines,
President

Mr. Lester Hutchins,
Vice-President
Rev. David P. Conyers,
Secretary

Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, Executive Secretary

VANNDALE METHODIST CHURCH NEW PARSONAGE

Out of the storm of several months ago that left wreckage across our state, many new buildings have come forth. The parsonage at Vann-dale was one of those buildings that experienced destruction. Fortunate, indeed, it was that none of the parsonage family was injured. Through the fine leadership of the pastor Rev. J. H. Richardson and the following building committee: Eli Sigman, Leonard Lessenberry, Bilbo Cochrell, E. E. Turner, Edgar Davis, Laster Bledsoe, Ardis Kern-odde, Francis Jemberg, a new par-sonage has been erected. These were assisted by the following who were added to the committee on finance: Alma Callhoon, Georgia Talbert, Thelma Hare. Mrs. Francis Chernbag served as Secretary-Treasurer.

The parsonage, of beautiful buff brick, including three bedrooms, bath, large living-room, large kit-chen and dining area, and utility porch, was erected at a cost of \$13,000. The project was financed by cash gifts and a government loan which was especially set up for

buildings in the storm area.

The people at Vanndale are indeed proud of this most beautiful and magnificent home. The parsonage family is enjoying all the comforts needed or desired by a family. A butane gas system keeps the house comfortable at all times. The church at Vanndale now owns a plot of ground large enough for future ex-pansion of its program in any direc-tion. It was the writer's privilege to have fellowship in the parsonage home the past week and be privi-leged to speak in the church each night and have the opportunity to be in the homes during the day. We enjoyed a fine season of revival with a splendid class received into church membership. The Vanndale parson-age makes five new building pro-jects completed during the pastorate of Bro. Richardson during the four and half years he has served in this area. This is indeed a most unusual record. All of our folks over the conference will rejoice in this fine work.—J. Albert Gatlin.

METHODIST MEN ENJOY SUNDAY BREAKFAST MEETING

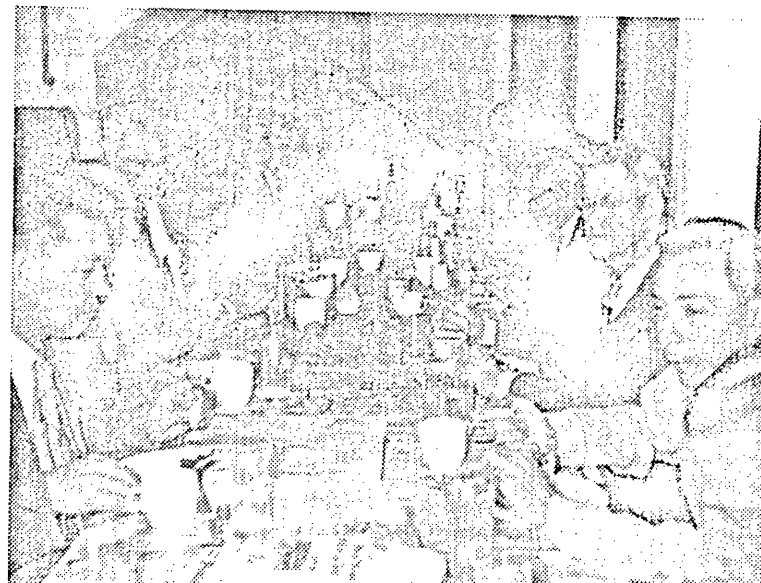
The Mt. View Men's Club met for their regular monthly Breakfast meeting, Sunday morning at the church. Mr. Buddy Lackey, presi-dent, introduced Richard Lancaster who spoke on "Freedom of Wor-ship." Mr. Lancaster stated that in countries dominated by Communism men are not free to worship and to express their opinions as they are in a democracy like ours. He said this freedom was a great heritage and we should be proud of it. To keep it we must exercise it in the support of those institutions that make for free-dom. One of these is the church.

Men present were Buddy Lackey, Richard Lancaster, W. C. James,

Clay Brewer, Kebel Hinkle, Astor Dearien, Ernest Brewer, William Cranston, H. W. Jinske, Ed McClen-don, Gerald Cain, H. E. Watson, Grancis Brewer, L. G. Gulley, George Pope, G. W. Lackey, Jack Jones, Maurice Tudor, Dr. Tom Bur-ton.

The men voted to accept respon-sibility for reconditioning the floor of the church. Mr. Lackey appointed Ernest Brewer, W. C. James, George Pope, Ed McClendon, and Kebel Hinkle as a committee in charge of this project.

The next meeting will be the first Sunday morning in December.—Re-porter.





ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Methodist

Youth

Fellowship

NEWS

A CALL TO YOUTH

Nashville, Tenn. — The Methodist Church is issuing a call to its 1,500,000 youth members across the country to join in a four-year program of Christian action, it was announced here today.

The Rev. Harold W. Ewing, youth department director at the Methodist Board of Education headquarters, said New Year's Eve watchnight services in 40,000 churches will initiate the youth emphasis.

"At that time we are asking all of our youth, 12 to 23, to observe Holy Communion and dedicate themselves to our common goal of winning others to Christ," Ewing said.

Evangelism will be the chief youth project in 1953, geared to the church's world-wide evangelistic mission, Ewing stated. Plans also call for weekend projects during Lent, and special youth rallies in connection with regional evangelistic campaigns.

The four-year program stems from Methodism's General Conference which spotlighted youth work as a major church-wide emphasis.

"Six million American youth are members of Protestant churches ... but 20,000,000 belong to no church or synagogue, and left without Christian teaching they may become the seedbed of communism, fascism, secularism, and atheism," the church's legislative body warned at its 1952 session in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the Methodist Council of Bishops, meeting November 21 in Atlantic City, N. J., endorsed the program and advised Ewing that six bishops will be appointed to

serve on a general youth emphasis committee.

"The plan for the quadrennial emphasis on youth work is enthusiastically received," the bishops stated "and we hope that such programs and plans as may be put into the execution will be relevant to the perplexing and tragic issues which youth face today."

YOUTH OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND WORLD CONFERENCE

Two officials of the National Conference of Methodist Youth are among the delegates to the third World Conference of Christian Youth meeting in India in December.

They are Jameson Jones, president, and the Rev. George Harper, projects secretary of the denominational youth group which has its headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

Also attending the conference will be Miss Rowena Ferguson, associate editor of youth publications of the Methodist General Board of Education, Nashville. She has been chosen to write the official conference report.

Some 320 young people from 56 countries will attend the conference December 11-26 in Kottayam, Travancore, India. It is sponsored by five world agencies: World Council of Churches, World Council of Christian Education, World Student Christian Federation, and the World YM and YWCA. Its theme will be "Christ—the Answer."

Following the conference Jones will meet with three bodies of which he is a member, the World Christian Youth Commission and the youth department committees of the World Council of Churches and the World Council of Christian Education. He and Harper will return home through Asia, visiting Methodist mission work in India, Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Sarawak, the Philippine Islands, China, Japan, Korea and Hawaii.

Jones is a student at Garrett Biblical Institute. His home is in Lexington, Ky.

STEWARDSHIP REVIVAL IN McGEHEE

(Continued from page 5)

six weeks, five for planning and one for solicitation. Brother Keith came to McGehee for three evening meetings over a period of four weeks. He spent eight full days with the church during the revival.

—V—

What are some of the benefits that may be realized from a Stewardship Revival? 1. New manpower the Church never dreamed it had is discovered. In McGehee, there were 70 persons who did soliciting. Contrast that to the few in any church who usually have to do the finance work. 2. This group and all the church becomes a real team and fellowship. 3. The means for enlarging plant facilities are secured.

The benefits of the Revival must be conserved with vigilance and work.

WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS

The Paul E. Martin Sub-District met on Tuesday, November 18, at the First Methodist Church in Fort Smith. There were 71 present. Sally Wernett, president, presided and thanked the Sub-District for sending her to the conference at Conway on November 7 and 8. She also gave a short report of the conference. A report of the work party held at Shore's Lake Methodist Camp was given. The next meeting will be a candlelight communion service at Goddard Memorial Church, Fort Smith, on December 16.

The Buffalo Island Sub-District met in Leachville on November 17. An inspiring program, based on the Thanksgiving theme was presented by the Leachville group. The district president, Terry Ballard, presided over the business meeting. There were 84 members present. Caraway won the banner. A council meeting was held after the business meeting. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS IN LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

December 4-6 — Recreation Workshop, First Church, Alexandria.

January 9-11 — Christian Vocations Conference, Centenary College.

January 12 — Ruston District Recreation Workshop.

January — Baton Rouge District Rally.

March 1 — Alcohol Essay Contests in local churches. Title of essay: "What Beverage Alcohol or Other Narcotics Might Do To Me if I indulge in Them."

April — Youth Month.

Christmas is Bible-giving Time

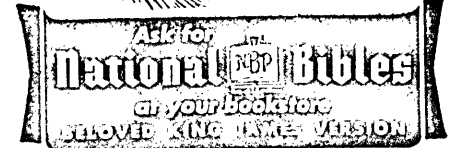
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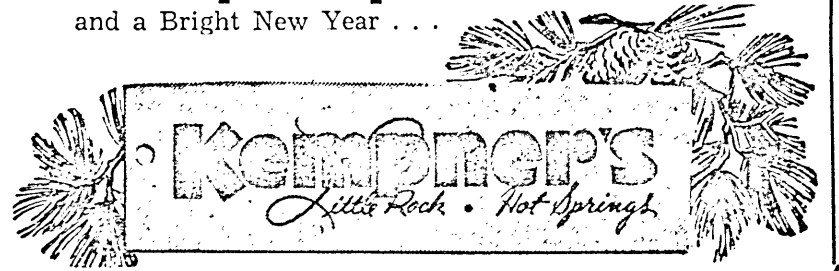
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REPORT FROM DANVILLE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Danville Methodist Youth Fellowship had a potluck supper on November 19 with nineteen present. We meet for fellowship twice a month, once for recreation and games at which time we invite the youth of all churches and once for a potluck evening meal. Our attendance is gradually increasing.

We are making plans for this area Sub-District meeting which is to be held in our church on December 8. We are to each bring cash offering to this meeting to be sent as a Christmas gift to our Methodist Children's Home.—Reporter

MARKHAM STREET CHURCH ORGANIZES M. Y. F.

The Markham Street Methodist Church organized a Methodist Youth Fellowship on Sunday, November 23.

Marion Tate was elected president; Ellen Shelton, vice-president and C. N. Davidson, secretary-treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jacobi are our counselors.

The group was organized by the pastor, Rev. Howard Childs, who is known throughout the state for his youth work.—C. N. Davidson

MONROE DISTRICT CHRISTIAN WORKERS SCHOOL

Monroe District Christian Workers School was held in the Educational Building of the First Methodist Church of Monroe, November 17, 18, and 19, with ten churches represented.

Total enrollment of the school was 220. The total number of credit cards issued were 121. These were from the following courses:

1. "Teaching Children in the Church" by Mrs. C. H. Mahaffey, Beaumont, Texas and Mrs. Bergeron of West Monroe.

2. "Teaching Youth" by Miss Bettie Rea Fox, Shreveport.

3. "The Methodist Youth Fellowship" by Rev. Don Wineinger of Delhi.

4. "Intermediate Program and Organization" Rev. Earl Emmerich, of Rayville.

5. "Adult Classes at Work" by Rev. Ralph Cain of Monroe.

6. "The Church and Its Work" by Dr. Bentley Sloane of Shreveport.

The officers of the Training School were Rev. R. H. Staples, dean; A. D. Williams, treasurer, Harold Riggs, chairman of the Board of managers. —Reporter

BISHOP WATTS TO GIVE LECTURES AT TEXAS WESLEYAN

Ft. Worth, Texas—Dr. Anne Gary Pannell, president of Sweet Briar College, was speaker for the annual fall lecture series on the Texas Wesleyan College campus, October 27-28. This is the seventh year the lectures, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Willson of Floydada, Texas, have been presented at Texas Wesleyan. Fall lectures are devoted to the study of sound family relationships; the lectures in the spring are presented in connection with religious emphasis week. Bishop H. Bascom Watts, Nebraska Area, has been engaged for the spring series.

OBITUARY

BRUNER—Amanda C. Bruner, wife of W. E. Bruner, founder of the Bruner-Ivory Handle Co., Hope, passed away at noon Nov. 10th, 1952, at the age of 83 years, ten months and twenty-four days.

She was born near Cora, Mo., on January 16th, 1869, the daughter of Augustus and Mary Morelock. She and William Edgar Bruner were married at Cora, Mo., on Feb. 24th,

1890. They were the parents of three children, Rolla M. Bruner, who passed away in 1950; Mrs. Guy E. Basye, and Wilbur Cary Bruner, all of Hope.

Mrs. Bruner is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Susan Samples, of Highwood, Montana, ten grand children and eight great grandchildren, as well as a number of nieces and nephews, among whom are Mrs. Fermin (Blanch) Chance and Roy Beck, of Hope.

She was converted early in life, and joined the Methodist Church at Milan, Mo. She lived a consistent Christian life, always helping someone. Her ready wit, pleasing personality and high Christian principles endeared her to all who knew her. At the time of her death she was a member of the Methodist Church at Heber Springs, Ark. Truly a mother in Israel has passed to her reward.

Before moving to Hope Mr. and Mrs. Bruner lived at Almyra, Cotton Plant and Heber Springs.

Funeral service was held at the Hope Gospel Tabernacle at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, November 12th. Burial was at Rose Hill Cemetery.

NAPIER—On November 4, 1952, Ralph Napier of Kentwood, Louisiana passed away at the Baptist Hospital in New Orleans. As a brief summary of his beautiful life we

quote from a former pastor and other friends. "Ralph, to me, was an example of a man who had perfect self control — in that he never seemed to be without a grip upon himself and never spoke unkindly about anyone. It was my pleasure to be in his Sunday School class for several months. It was while I was in his class that I was able to feel and to know him spiritually. His self control and charity toward all were a source of inspiration to me."

"Everyone will miss Mr. Ralph. Our little boys thought so much of him and we will always cherish that friendly smile and bit of wit he had for everyone. We feel that our lives

have been made richer by having known him and his family. We have never seen anyone so sweet to his family as was he."

After attending his funeral service — "Since being there I've had an exalted feeling as if I had very close to something from on high." "He was my very special kinsman. I, too, will miss a very wonderful friend. There were many things about him that placed him a little out of the ordinary."

Such are the words that give a small picture of this lovable and unusual character. He was a pleasure to his family, his friends, and to all with whom he associated.



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The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

Lesson based on "International Sunday School Lessons; the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching," copyrighted 1951 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



LESSON FOR DECEMBER 14, 1952

HOW DOES CHRISTIANITY DISPEL FEAR?

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
Matthew 14. Printed text: Matthew 14:22-23.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Take heart, it is I: have no fear."
(Matt. 14:27)

This is the third of the five lessons of Unit III. As we deal with each of these lessons it is well to keep the general theme of the unit in mind: "CHRISTIANITY FOR THE GOOD OF MAN." The aim is to lead people to consider the benefits of Christianity for mankind and how these benefits may be extended to ever increasing numbers of people.

A Look at the Scriptures

The events of this lesson took place in the spring of A. D. 29. They occurred in and around the Lake of Galilee.

Just prior to the opening of our lesson Christ fed the five thousand by multiplying the loaves and fishes. This miracle, along with others, the Lord had performed made him very popular with the masses. We are told that they wanted to take him by force and make a king of him. The Lord did not approve of the ambition of these people. He did not want the minds of his disciples to be poisoned with these ideas and so in the beginning of the printed portion of our lesson we find him sending the disciples away. The Scripture reads, "Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side." The Greek word from which the word "made" is translated implies that the Lord brought pressure upon them. The disciples obeyed him but the idea was not altogether pleasant to them. The disciples were steeped in all the Jewish ideas concerning the earthly rule of the Messiah and they were very much in favor of the procedure suggested by the multitude.

For the same reason the multitudes were also loath to leave the Lord. He had to use some pressure to dispel them. We are told that "He dismissed the crowds."

As soon as the disciples and the crowds were gone the Lord climbed one of the near-by hills to be alone with the Father. One of the outstanding features of his wonderful life was his companionship with God. He spent much time alone with the Father. The Bible speaks of his praying more than it does his preaching and teaching. Twenty-five times over we read of him going out to pray. He was in habit of getting up a great while before day to pray. We read of him spending whole nights in prayer. Here on this occasion he spent most of the night in this manner. We are told that he came to the disciples in the fourth watch of the night. That means that the time of his coming to them was sometime between the hours of 3 and 6 a. m. When we consider the Lord's prayer life we get the secret of his courage and power. He kept in close touch with the Father from whom he drew his spiritual strength.

Several hours passed after the

Lord sent the disciples away and he was still alone in prayer. A storm came down upon the lake and the Lord realized that his disciples were in danger. We are told that he came to them walking on the water. They had never witnessed a thing like this before and naturally supposed that Christ was a spirit. They cried out in their fear. And in the words of our memory selection the Lord reassured them, "Take heart, it is I: have no fear." A point to keep in mind here is the fact that the Lord is always at hand when his disciples need him. On that memorable night the storm and the sea could not deter his coming. We can rest assured that nothing but our lack of obedience and faith can prevent his coming to us when the storms beat upon our lives.

We do not wonder that Peter was the spokesman for the group on this occasion, that was the role he always filled. His words rang out over the waves, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." The Lord met with the request and for a brief moment Peter walked on the water. It seemed that the foundation beneath his feet was very unstable, but such was not the case. He was standing on the spiritual Rock of Gibraltar — the command of the Lord. So long as he kept his eyes on the Lord all went well, but when he noted his source of danger more than he did his Source of security he began to sink. So it is today; those who permit their fears to predominate over their faith are living sinking lives.

Peter doubted but he did not remain long in doubt and fear. He had the good wisdom to go to the only place where such difficulties can be removed — he went to the Lord. "Lord, save me" were his words. The Lord did save him. No one has ever gone to Christ with a sincere petition like this went away empty handed. His petition was granted; his prayer was answered. Peter was so frightened and so weak on this occasion that he could not reach out to the Lord but we are told, "Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him." He then proceeded to rebuke him for his lack of faith. How it must surprise the Lord over and over again to note how weak all of us are in the faith, and that in spite of the opportunities that are ours in this age.

Suddenly the storm was over and the waves were calm and the Lord got into the boat. The disciples marveled at his great power. They noted that he was able to even control the forces of nature. They did what others would have done under such circumstances — they worshipped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Lesson Applied

The lesson raises a very pertinent question for our age: "HOW DOES CHRISTIANITY DISPEL FEAR?" Note that the question of the lesson does not have to do with the ability of Christianity to dispel fear; the best thinkers of the world today are agreed that Christianity not only dispels fear but it is the only force in the universe that can successfully do it. The question is "How does it do it?" We will have more to say about that pretty soon.

An Age of Fear

Probably, there has never been a time in all the history of the world when there was so much fear. This accounts for the increasing number of nervous breakdowns. Many fear disease, and that in spite of the fact that medical science has made such wonderful progress in recent years. Some fear old age. They have never been able to feel as the Poet Browning felt when he wrote,

"Grow old along with me;
The best is yet to be;
The last of life,
For which the first was made."

Others fear the effect that the present-day scourge of political corruption may have on our nation. They realize that many other nations and empires have passed into oblivion when their moral standards crumbled. Many fear the Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Man now has at his disposal the means of complete destruction. We are getting too much of the power of God and not enough of his character. The human race can now commit suicide. The U. S. fears Russia, and Russia fears the U. S. Other nations fear what a conflict between these two nations might mean to the rest of the world. Then there is the fear of economic failure. Our nation is now carrying the burden of most of the other countries of the world. We are not complaining about this. It seems to be the Christian thing to do. But no one knows for sure just how far it is safe for us to go out from the shore on the troubled sea of economies without getting beyond our depth and finally becoming submerged by the storm of financial difficulties. Inflation is already upon us and it is becoming increasingly hard for old people and others who are living on pensions to get along. Some who laid up what they felt was enough to take care of them in their old age and have retired are finding that their dollars are buying less and less. They naturally fear that want may come upon them before life is over. Then, finally, there is the fear of death and what may be on the other side of the grave. These are some of our present-day fears. The reader may think of many others. Little wonder that these fears are wrecking the physical and mental health of thousands of people.

The Cure of Fear

As stated above, there is but one cure of fear and that is Christianity. But even Christianity cannot solve the problem unless it is practiced to the highest degree. We cannot play at the job of being Christians now. If we do, we need not look for much help from our profession of faith. Real Christianity, and not mere church membership, can dispel fear. What do we mean by real Christianity? We mean a condition or experience in life in which God is placed ahead of all other persons or things. According to Christ the

greatest commandment is to love God supremely. This love is not merely a sentimental matter. When one loves God supremely he will show that love by standing one hundred per cent for the things for which God stands. He will make much over God's righteousness. This righteousness simply means rightness of relationship between the individual and God and between the individual and his fellows. All of our present day failures which lead to fears are brought about by men's failure to practice God's righteousness. Little wonder we find the Bible saying, "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." "Not only will righteousness exalt a nation, it will also exalt an individual, or the world. The great need of the world today is for people who can get along with God and get along with all others. This can be done when the individual loves God supremely and fellowmen as self. "Perfect love casteth out all fear. The world is filled with fear today because it is filled with hatred and misunderstanding.

Practicing the Presence of the Lord

When one loves God supremely and fellow men as self he will be conscious of the presence of the Lord in his life. It is the consciousness of this presence that dispels fear. In nature we see the power of God — his omnipotence. In order and precision of created things and of man who is the cap stone of creation we see God's wisdom — his omniscience. In God's working through natural laws, which are simply his habits in the natural realm, we see his dependability and the fact that he is here and not far removed — his omnipresence. Then, above all things through the revelation made by Christ we see God as a loving heavenly Father. When we are conscious of the presence of a God like that in our lives there is no room for fear. We realize that he is bigger than our problems and stronger than our difficulties. And, too, from the sacrifice made by Christ we know that he loves us far better than we love ourselves and will go to any length to help us. We realize further that this God who is ever present with us has this universe under control. By self-limiting his power he makes room for the free moral agency of men and sometimes in the exercise of that freedom they make a terrible mess of things, but over and above these adverse conditions God continues to operate. He does not directly rule in the affairs of men, but he overrules and finally makes all things work for good to those who love him. That is the kind of God we worship. It is our unbounded love for him and a realization of his great love for us together with an undaunted faith in him that cures our fears. That is how Christianity dispels fear.

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