

Arkansas Methodist

— "SERVING
Of

DRED THOUSAND METHODISTS IN ARKANSAS"
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NO. 49

May It Always Be So

TWO aspects of the recent national political campaign have left an impression which one could wish would characterize elections in every country of the world. First, there was the great organized effort to get out the vote. Many organizations, industrial organizations, business firms, civic groups, and individuals cooperated in a great effort to encourage a wholesome participation in voting. Most of these groups had little to gain by such urging except the satisfaction of having done their civic duty. Aside from the unusual interest in the election itself, the plea "Please Vote, But Vote As You Please" accounted in a measure for the large number of votes cast.

But perhaps of more interest is the fact that this large number of voters could cast their vote as they pleased with absolutely no fear of reprisal for the way they voted. This is, of course, as it should be. We should never cease to be thankful that we live in a land that has free elections and where elections are much more than simply a mock choice. Closely contested political campaigns which arouse considerable interest among the electorate are signs of a healthy democracy. Such campaigns result in political parties keeping their policies close to the will of a large majority of the people.

The Christian church has a larger opportunity to accomplish its mission of redemption in a society where there is this large range of freedom.

Trunkline Travelers

POSSIBLY we have all heard of the brother who was browsing around through his trunk and discovered that the mice he had made a bed of his church letter which he had brought with him years ago when he left the "old home church." The mouse bed was filled with little mice. Incidentally the mice were making better use of the church letter than the brother was.

We were reminded of this old story when a preacher friend told us last week of having just secured a church letter from one of his parishioner which the brother had been keeping in his trunk for thirty-four years. Evidently he thought much more of the church letter than the thirty-four-year lapse seems to indicate, or he would hardly have been able to have preserved it for so long a period against the ravages of time, the habits of mice and the carelessness of men.

One of the great spiritual tragedies in the lives of some Methodists is the superficial value they seem to place on their church membership. In moving from one place to another they are careful to take with them everything they may possess from grand pianos to garden tools, dish pans and pieces of rope and yet move right off and leave their church membership. Some act as if the transfer of a church membership is almost a superhuman task. The fact of the business is, of course, that they can move their church membership easier than they can move their pocket handkerchiefs. They must, at least, their pocket handkerchiefs.

There are others who, in moving to another town, ask for their church letters and carefully stow them away in their trunks and thereby join that "innumerable caravan" of trunkline travelers. A church letter hidden away in a trunk is hardly worth the room it occupies. About the only good purpose it can serve there is to reproach us for our negligence, if we happen to run across it.

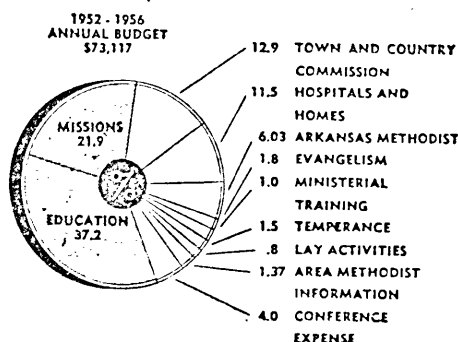
(Continued on page 5)

Homes Hospitals And Conference Benevolences

IN the Little Rock Conference 5.0% of each dollar collected for Conference Benevolences goes to the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock. In the North Arkansas Conference 11.5% of each dollar collected for Conference Benevolences goes for Hospitals and Homes. Of the total amount collected for that purpose approximately 44% goes to The Methodist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee and 56% goes to the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock.

Most of us are familiar with the work of our Methodist Children's Home. There is no Methodist institution in the state in which our people have a more sympathetic interest, or which they support more liberally. The amount of money received by the Home through Conference Benevo-

DIVISION OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE DOLLAR



lences supplements the larger offering for the cause made by the local churches of the state during the Christmas season.

No other Methodist institution in Arkansas has grown more rapidly during the last ten years than the Methodist Children's Home. The eighty-acre tract of land in the Oak Forest addition of west Little Rock and the several beautiful, substantial buildings already erected are a prophecy of the great Children's Home Methodism will eventually have in Arkansas. This growing institution is a source of pride to all Arkansas Methodism because of the marked progress it is making and because of the vital service it is rendering unfortunate children who are homeless because of the loss of parents or because of broken homes.

Pages eight and nine of this issue of the Arkansas Methodist carry a special pictorial story of the Home and give emphasis to the need for a liberal offering for the Home during the Christmas season.

The Methodist Hospital in Memphis receives some support through Conference Benevolences in the North Arkansas Conference. This is one of the great hospitals of the south. The large amount of charity work it does for those unable to have hospital care, if they had to meet the expenses, makes it necessary for the hospital to have financial support beyond the money collected from those who do pay for the services they receive.

Do You Belong?

ONE of the valuable contributions of the Area Council October meeting was the setting up of provisions for the organization of a Thousand Member Club in the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences as a part of the Area Program. The aim of this club is the securing of one thousand persons who will contribute \$10 toward the program of church extension each time an authorized project is ready to be undertaken during this quadrennium. A further feature of this plan provides that no person will be asked to make this contribution more than ten times during the period 1952-56 nor more than three times in any one calendar year. The purpose of course is to provide immediate support to the extent of \$10,000 to an authorized project to help it get on its feet during a difficult time when it is getting started. This new strategy should mean much in extending the ministry of Methodism especially in those cities and towns where the population is increasing at a fast pace.

We have been informed that many lay people are responding to the challenge of this program. During the recent sessions of District Conferences the plan was presented and the response has been very encouraging. The responsibility for the promotion of the program is rather largely in the hands of the District Superintendents and key lay persons. If you have not secured a membership in this club we want to urge you to tell your charge lay leader or pastor that you want to belong. With nine hundred ninety-nine others you can make possible Methodism's meeting of its responsibility in the field of church extension.

The Obscure Becomes Exalted

IN a lowly stable two thousand years ago an event took place which eventually was to influence the whole world. By all standards of measurement of today, and perhaps of that day also, the event was all but unnoticed. True it was that a few shepherds and men of unusual wisdom paid their respects when Jesus was born, but for the most part business was as usual. The streets were crowded with travelers, men schemed to obtain power and possessions, and pleasure was sought as an end in itself. One wonders just what would have been going on in Bethlehem if those in the city had realized fully the significance of that first Christmas eve. The walls of the stable would not have been able to contain all those who would have wanted to pay homage to the child whose later life, ministry and teachings were destined to have such an influence on the world. The residents and visitors in Bethlehem that night did not realize that this obscure incident would later become exalted among men.

The miracle of the ages has been that such an unnoticed appearance should come to have such an immortal place in the affairs of men. And yet, each succeeding generation must experience for itself another Bethlehem. Even now in our day and at this very Christmastime there are multiplied millions of people who will not bow before the manger of the Christ nor experience within their own personal life the birth of the Redeemer of mankind. Their ears will not hear the song of the angels proclaiming the Way of Peace as found in the Gospel of redeeming love. Their eyes will not behold the Star of Hope which would forever guide them in the ways of righteousness. Their feet will not take them to

(Continued on page 4)

A New Evangelistic Opportunity

LOCAL CHURCH EVANGELISM now has a new opportunity to go forward at a greater pace than ever before with the aid of the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism which was formed as a permanent commission by the General Conference. That is the expressed belief of Church leaders today.

Commenting on the possibilities of the work which this Commission may accomplish for the church, Bishop Roy H. Short of the Nashville Area said: "If the evangelistic program in any local church is to be successful, there must be a well-organized group of carefully selected persons who will major on this task. The various tasks to be accomplished in any church are accomplished only as some dedicated souls major on them. Hence arises the great importance of an active Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the local church to keep the congregation conscious of its evangelistic task, to plan and execute a continuing, well-functioning program of evangelism, and to cultivate methodically the spiritual life of the membership of the church."

"Moreover, the Commission on Membership and Evangelism is of tremendous significance, not only to the local church but to the Church at large," the Bishop continued. "The Methodist Church today has a challenging, carefully planned, workable program of evangelism. It can reach the local church with this program most effectively where it has the full cooperation of an evangelistic pastor and a live, functioning Commission on Membership and Evangelism," the Bishop stressed.

Dr. Ernest M. Dycus, Superintendent of the East St. Louis District of the Southern Illinois Annual Conference, who has been actively interested in the work of the Commission said, "The Commission on Membership and Evangelism, as set up by the General Conference, is loaded with dynamite. Truly, the sky is the limit as to what can be accomplished, depending on the attitude of the Commission itself."

Dr. Dycus then quoted one lay leader, who, after receiving the challenge at a Sub-District meeting on the duties of this Commission, said to his local Quarterly Conference, "We laymen have not been doing our job. You will hear from me from now on."

Continuing, Dr. Dycus said, "This Commission can be of great service in keeping church rolls in perfect condition. It can greatly undergird the program of evangelism in the local church, and assist the pastor, but should not run before him, especially if he is aggressive. I'm depending on the Commissions in the local church to assist me in promoting new members in my rapidly growing areas."

At West End Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, where the Commission is functioning in a very positive manner, Dr. James W. Henley has this to say: "We are definitely committed to the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. We, at West End Church, believe that it offers us an instrument for better service than we have yet been able to perform. Our Commission is organized, having its monthly meetings, and launching a program such as we have never before had. Through the cooperative efforts of the Commission and those whom it enlists from all organizations within the church, we anticipate that we will be able to reawaken the indifferent within the congregation, reach many others in the name of Christ and His Church, and assimilate new members into our church family. The 17 members of our Commission believe they have the most important assignment in the church and are undertaking that assignment with appropriate zeal."

It has also been pointed out, by Church leaders, that while the Commission shall be composed of not less than two laymen, two women, two young people, elected annually by the Quarterly Conference, and as many additional persons as the Conference may determine, the General Conference has gathered together many of the spiritual leaders of the local church as ex-officio members, whom it has designated must be on the Commission. These are the pastor, the secretary of Spiritual Life of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the chairman of the Commission on Missions, the church lay leader, the church school superintendent, the president of Methodist Men, the chairman of the Commission on Worship and Fellowship of the Local Methodist Youth Fellowship, and such members of the District Committee on Evangelism as have membership in the local church.

Dr. C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr., Associate Secretary with the General Board of Evangelism and Director of Local Church Evangelism, believes that for the first time in Methodist history we are reaching the entire organization of the church through the commission plan.

"The work of evangelism used to rest mostly on the shoulders of the pastor and a few designated stewards," Dr. Daugherty said. "Missions rested with the women of the church. This new program," he explained, "Mobilizes all of the facilities of the church for programs in evangelism, education, missions and finance."

In conclusion, Dr. Daugherty emphasized, "If this Local Church Commission does its job, the Commission on Education, Missions, and Finance



automatically have both wider and deeper resources. They will have more people with whom to work, and the people will be dedicated and willing to accept their responsibility. However, if this Commission does not do the work given to it by the General Conference and outlined in the 1952 Discipline, then all of the other commissions and organizations of the local church are automatically limited in the work which they can do," Dr. Daugherty pointed out.

IN THE METHODIST CONNECTION

COVENANT SUNDAY JANUARY, 1953

Covenant Sunday, the first Sunday of each new year in Methodist program, has been observed in Methodist churches now for several years. This year the emphasis carries the added feature of the relationship with the World Mission of Evangelism program. The following article, points up the Covenant Sunday program for 1953.

A thousand years ago England's King Alfred declared, "The greatest need of England is a generation of praying men, women, and children." Today, the world possesses that same need. If we are to rise above the fears that would engulf us, if we would destroy the tides of tyranny that try men's souls, we must become again a people of the divine covenant. To renew that covenant is the responsibility of every Christian.

As a consequence, it is the responsibility of every church to make these days a time for prayer. Let the preacher pray on his knees in his study as he has never prayed before. Let him pray in every home in which he calls. Let him pray with his people in organized prayer circles. Let him pray publicly as one who has met God. And let the layman pray daily for his community, his country, his world. Let him pray for God to guide his pastor and his fellow-laymen in their efforts to win people to Christ. Let him pray for a Spirit-filled Church. And together, let pastor and people plan for a prayerful consecration that will strengthen every individual in the task of building the Kingdom of God.

There is no more appropriate time for such a consecration than at the beginning of the New Year. John Wesley strongly urged "the people called Methodists" to renew their covenant with God. Toward that end he held his first Covenant service in 1755. In continuing that emphasis, he issued his famous Covenant service as a pamphlet in 1780. The form in which he prepared it was used without alteration for almost a century.

The form has now been revised with a twofold thought in mind. First, great care has been taken to

retain the deep sense of importance which has made the service a fruitful source of blessing across the span of almost two centuries; and, second, the World Wide Mission of Evangelism, so much in keeping with John Wesley's universal outlook, has been stressed through the express vow to witness for Christ during 1953. Printed as an attractive 8-page brochure, the **Service of Worship for Communion Covenant Sunday** is available from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee, at \$2.00 per 100.

To increase the personal significance of this service TIDINGS has made available a Communion Covenant card. This card gives definiteness to the covenant and lends additional substance to the Commission Covenant service. A double card, it permits the individual to retain one half as a reminder of his pledge and to use the other half to register his decision with the church. The following opportunities for the individual to pledge himself to Christ and His Church are provided by this card, which may be purchased from TIDINGS at \$1.00 per 100.

On Communion Covenant Sunday in January 1953

I made this covenant
with Christ and with my fellow
church members:

- () I will pray often for the World Mission of Evangelism, that the Lord will send more laborers into His harvest, that Methodists throughout the world may be deepened in their spiritual lives, and that they may win more persons to the Lord Jesus Christ this year than ever before.
- () I am determined, by the grace of God, to be a more faithful witness of the Gospel, both by deed and by word.
- () I desire to bring at least one person to Christ this year and will make a conscious effort to do so.

May God give me spiritual strength to do this, that I may be a better Christian than ever before.

NAME _____

(Keep this in your Bible, The Upper Room, or somewhere else where you may see it every day.)

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In On Christmas Day In The Morning.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things . . . Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Never dismiss a carol by saying it isn't religious. Religion and life are the same thing or neither is anything. We are distressed at times over the secularization of Christmas, but perhaps what is going on is the Christianizing of the holiday.

Every man, whether he goes to church or not, has a ship of memories coming in on Christmas Day in the morning. Whether they will be good or bad next Christmas depends upon how much love we show this year. (Dickens said this once and for all in his *Christmas Carol*.)

Another ship is good resolutions that both pagans and Christians make near January 1. But resolutions come to nothing without faith. "It is God that worketh in us." The habit of resolving must become the habit of depending because Christmas overshadows New Year's.

Good wishes is another ship we send and receive on Christmas Day. Happy Cargo! But wistful too, unless grounded in hope.

Resolutions buoyed by faith. Wishes deepened by hope. Memories created by charity.

If Christmas seems sad, think of this: "Then shall I know even as also I am known."—Forward

SPEAKING OF GIFTS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
VERSE FOR TODAY: God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

At the Christmas season, gifts are very much in mind. The stores display them; the papers advertise them; we purchase them. Never for a moment are we allowed to forget that Christmas is a time for gifts.

Most parents, at Christmas, have received from one of their small children some inexpensive gift. Perhaps the gift was a bit impractical, but it had been bought with hoarded pennies and had been given in a spirit of love. How the parents have prized the gift and given it a special place in their hearts! Long after more expensive gifts have been forgotten, this gift has been tucked away among other treasures, and surrounded by hallowed memories—all because of the beautiful love which prompted it.

On that first Christmas Day, God gave to us a wonderful gift—a gift prompted by his love, a gift so practical that it brings spiritual health, a gift so precious that once having come to know him we will never be satisfied with any other. Let us be reminded, then, that without God's gift of Jesus, Christmas would have no foundation, no spirit, no lasting value; but with Jesus, the day is one of abiding love, good will, and joy.

PRAYER: Our Heavenly Father, as we come to this Christmas season, may we be prompted in both our giving and receiving by our love for

CHRISTMAS GIVING

As you think of giving presents
To your friends on Christmas Day,
Don't forget the poor and needy
That you meet along life's way.
Give them something that is helpful,
That will tell them of your love,
For such giving pleases Jesus
As He watches from above.

If you cannot give abundance,
Give a little in His name;
For a little given rightly,
With His blessings on the same,
May be bread upon the waters
You will find again sometime,
Multiplied to loaves of blessing
That are wondrous and sublime.

Give to little orphan children,
Give to widows in their need,
Give the old and give the helpless—
Hear their cry for help, and heed.
Give the prisoner in his prison,
Give to shut-ins fast in bed,
Give the crippled, blind, and sickly—
Give and know that you'll be fed.

Let the Christmas thought of giving
Go with you throughout the year,
Then your life will be a blessing
And you'll have a thrill of cheer;
For in making others happy
You will get a great supply,
As our Lord who went to heaven
Will then bless you from the sky.

—Walter E. Isenhour,
Taylorsville, N. C.

THE EXPECTANCY OF THE WORLD

"Behold, I will send forth my messenger,
And He shall prepare the way before me!
And suddenly to his temple shall come
The Lord whom you are seeking!"

—Malachi 3:1

EXPECTANCY and hope have played a great role in the progress of the world. It has renewed the tired and jaded spirit of every generation. It has lifted men above themselves and inspired them with a vision that has driven them forward. Even failure has not been able to erase the most substantial hope from the lives of stalwart men and women. They have come back again and again to drink from its refreshing stream. Hope and expectancy are no where more evident than among the Jewish people as they have looked for the Messiah that would come and deliver them from the hand of their captors and restore the golden day of their kingdom. How ironical that they did not recognize the Messenger of God as He came declaring that He was the long expected one. This hope was so strong in their lives that every person who was outstanding was looked upon as being the possible Messiah.

A deep concern for men of Christian faith is, that hope has been reduced to a low level in the life of the Church. We attend our worship services and never expect anything

Jesus; and may we, in thus giving, be drawn closer to him who gave himself. In his name we pray. Amen.
—Freeman Fenerty, From
THE SECRET PLACE

of significance to happen. We plan and promote our special programs and still expectancy is quiet in our hearts. It might be interesting to raise the question as to why this drabness has clutched the Church today, but that is another thought that must hold. We are all too conscious that there is too much resignation to evil, to war, and social disease has gripped the world and we need something to break that spell.

What better time for a new birth of hope than at this Christmas season? When it is frankly admitted that we are in a state of confusion and that men from many walks of life are saying that only an emphasis upon spiritual truths will save us, what more compelling incentive could be had to catch again the hope and expectancy that sets again the broken chords into harmony with the angel choir?

Some have wrapped their expectations up in the belief that there will be a sudden and immediate return of the Lord to the earth. They are skilled in bringing forth scripture to support their claim. In the urgency of the hour there is not time to take issue with these men and women who are sincere, if in their convictions they are not trying to use this doctrine as a means of sensational attraction to weary and confused people. We have the first advent of our Lord that we have done so little

with. When such a belief is an excuse for failure to meet the present responsibilities of Christian living then it is a stupifying and deadening thing, but when it is an incentive to do greater and more earnest work for the Kingdom then it has a marked value.

Expectancy has a buoyancy that helps us to lift our eyes above the horizon of life and look "unto the hills" and even beyond to Him who gives us power and poise. It banishes the fatalism of our hearts and gives us a light through the dark hours and strength through the hard places. It has nourished the life of the saints of God even during the most severe persecution; it has lighted a lamp in the heart of the sorrowing and the lonely.

Hope and expectancy that are really buoyant and stable must be undergirded by the consecration of the best of man's intellect.

"Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose."

Isaiah cried to a people who had wandered away from God and forgotten His law, "Come, and let us reason together, says the Lord: If your sins be like scarlet, can they become white as snow? If they be red like crimson, can they become as wool?" Then the prophet answers the question he raises by declaring that through willingness and obedience that the people would eat of the good of the land. Is it not presumptuous on the part of the world to imagine that hope and expectation for peace and goodwill can come when the world is unwilling to heed God's command and continue in disobedience? That does not make sense.

In the Southeastern part of the state of Arkansas there is a great swamp. As a boy I loved to listen to the stories of men who knew about the swamp. Some of the stories would cause your hair to stand on end. There was one story of an old man who was lost in the swamp and night came on. He discovered that he was going in a circle and he knew what the results of that would be. He sat down and waited for the stars to come out and then he "took his course" by the stars and made his way out of the swamp and to safety. We have fallen into the vicious error of going in a circle. Is it not now the hour to pause and fix our bearing on the Star that leads us forward along God's holy way? We have tried "many angles" and promoted many schemes. Now in this hour let us fix our heart's desire on God and proclaim His eternal goodness that will guide men in their affairs.

Moreover, the light of hope and expectancy is lit in our lives as we are morally, ethically and spiritually obedient to the will of God. We cannot expect the blessings of God when we are rebellious and disobedient. Disobedience breaks down fellowship and raises a barrier between persons. Let the principles of fellowship be violated in a Church and immediately there is a collapse of fellowship. Homes have gone on the rocks from the same cause. Fellowship with God, upon which hope is built, vanishes when we live in disobedience to His will. Moral and
(Continued on page 15)

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

REV. J. J. GALLOWAY, retired member of the North Arkansas Conference was guest preacher at the First Methodist Church in Greenwood on Sunday, November 30.

REV. WILLIAM WILDER, pastor of Sylvan Hills Methodist Church, North Little Rock, preached on Sunday, November 30, at Hoxie. Rev. W. T. Lingo is pastor.

REV. J. M. HARRISON, pastor at Keiser, writes: "Rev. Garland C. Taylor was the preacher in a series of revival services in our church in Keiser during the week of October 16-22. His messages were much appreciated by the members and friends of the church."

REV. J. A. NEWELL writes that he is no longer in Booneville but is now living at 701 North Arkansas Avenue, Russellville. His mother is living with them since the death of Mrs. Newell. Brother Newell is now supplying the Pope County Circuit in the Conway District.

JAMES ROBERT WORKMAN was born at Springdale Memorial Hospital Saturday morning, 12:45 a. m., December 6, to Rev. James Worthen Workman Jr., and Dorothy Brewer Workman. Mr. Workman is pastor at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Springdale. James Robert is named after both grandfathers, and is the first grandson on either side of the family.

REV. J. M. HAMILTON, district superintendent of the Arkadelphia District, was the speaker at the dinner meeting of the Boy Scouts of Hot Spring County on Tuesday, December 2, at Malvern. The annual appreciation dinner is to honor the 125 adult scouters in Hot Spring County who are volunteer workers and who keep the Boy Scouts active in the county.

MRS. W. F. BATES, Little Rock Conference Director of Children's Work, left Friday, December 5, for Nashville, Tennessee, to attend a meeting of Children's Workers of the Commission on Education of the Local Church. The meeting will make plans for the National Conference on Education which will meet in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 12-16. Mrs. Bates is vice-president of the Children's Commission for the two-year period. She is also a member of the Program Committee.

DR. AUBREY G. WALTON, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Little Rock, left Sunday evening, December 7, to attend the Biennial General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America, meeting in Denver. Dr. Walton was recently named a voting representative from the Methodist Church by the Council of Bishops. Six hundred official delegates from twenty-nine denominations are meeting for a week of work in planning the strategy and program of the National Council for the years immediately ahead.

MEMORIAL SERVICES for the late Lieutenant Bob Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Williams, were held on Sunday afternoon, November 16, at the First Methodist Church, Malvern. Lieutenant Williams, pilot of a jet bomber, fell to his death while on a practice mission over the Korean coast on October 1, 1952. He was attached to the 474th Fighter Bomber Wing. He is survived by his wife and baby daughter, Margaret Kathleen of San Antonio, Texas; by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Williams of Malvern; two sisters, Mrs. R. V. Krueger of Houston, Texas and Miss Virginia Williams of the home; one brother, Joe, of the home and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. J. E. Lipscomb of Dallas, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Brooks were in charge of the memorial services.

THE METHODIST PASTORS in the Fort Smith Area had a breakfast conference on Monday morning, November 24, in Waldron. Present were Rev. John Sandage, Magazine; Rev. W. J.

Spicer, Booneville; Rev. Verlia Harris, Greenwood; Rev. James Meadows, Mansfield; Rev. Richard M. Holland, Waldron; Rev. Fred Thomp-

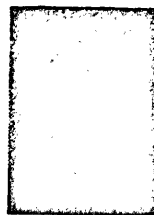
son, Waldron, and Dr. W. Henry Goodloe, district superintendent of the Fort Smith District.

THE OBSCURE BECOMES EXALTED

(Continued from page 1)

the holy and sacred places where men worship the only true and living God, the Father of the Christchild. Their hands will not work deeds of service and sacrifice that would gladden the spirits of those who need their ministry. Their lips will not give witness to the experience of the Master of men in their own lives. They too, like those of Bethlehem of old, are content to see in the season only a time for business, merriment and revelry. Again, one wonders just what the Christmas season would be like if all men everywhere came to see just what the Shepherds and Wise Men saw on that first Holy Night.

Yet, the obscure has become immortal. Nothing that will ever happen can take away from man the significance of Christ's birth. The meaning of Christ's coming becomes very real at this point, for when He has been born again in us and we in Him the miracle of the ages has come to pass in our own lives.



A WEEKLY MESSAGE

By FORNEY HUTCHINSON

A POOR RULE

There is an old saying which has been much in my mind since I have been writing for the *Arkansas Methodist*, with more or less regularity, for several years. In its entirety it reads as follows: "It's a poor rule that won't work both ways."

So far, in my letters to the *Methodist* I have had much to say about *Arkansas in Oklahoma*, or in other words, have written about the contribution *Arkansas* has made to her neighboring State of *Oklahoma*. I would like now to present the other side.

When I was pastor of our great St. Luke's Church in Oklahoma City, among my most prominent and useful members were a Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. King. They had a grown daughter and son, both of whom I married while I was their pastor. The son, Stephen F., married a Miss Juliana Lockard, of Oklahoma City, and they lived there until his death some years later. They, too, had a son, Stephen F. King, Jr. who grew up and entered the service in World War II, part of which took him overseas.

In the meantime, his father, who was connected with a large grain firm in Oklahoma City, became seriously ill. Through the Red Cross, his son was contacted in Germany and arrived home a short time before his father's death. Later, his mother moved to Tulsa and now lives with her mother in the same block where we reside.

After coming home, young Stephen was transferred to Camp Robinson, near Little Rock, and there met the girl whom he later married. At the close of the war he became associated with his father-in-law in a large fish hatchery near Lonoke, Arkansas, which does an extensive business in many sections of the United States. He is doing well in every way and is happy in his adopted home in Arkansas.

This illustrates the "rule that works both ways." The father and grandfather referred to in this article were both fine men and splendid citizens in their line of work in Oklahoma. I have every reason to believe that the grandson, Stephen F. King, will make a worth-while contribution to the progressive State of Arkansas. I earnestly pray that this may be so.

Again I say, "It's a poor rule that won't work both ways."

January 11-January 18

is the date for the

Annual Arkansas Methodist Circulation Campaign



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E. T. WAYLAND
EWING T. WAYLAND
ANNIE WINBURNE
Editors and Business Mgrs.
Assistant to Editors
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: H. O. Bolin, Mrs. Ewing T.
Wayland, Roy I. Bagley, Forney Hutchinson.
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ARKANSAS METHODIST

OUTGROWING OURSELVES

A little more than a generation ago Sir James M. Barrie wrote his joyous fantasy, "Peter Pan"—the boy who never grew up. As a play it was loved and applauded because it expressed the deep popular desire to preserve the spirit of youth. It is commonly assumed that youth is the time of life's greatest attractiveness.



Parents have moods when they wish they could keep their children in the period of unfolding surprises and unstudied charm. They would like to postpone the days when the graceful bundle of curves is lengthened out into the awkward stage of adolescence.

This parental feeling, however, is not really as deep as the desire to see the child develop. The proud father stretches his son to measure his gain in stature and then almost stretches the truth to prove to his friends that his offspring is a prodigy of physical and mental development.

And what sadness is caused by the failure of a child to grow up. When something arrests physical growth and leaves a stunted body, that is counted a near-tragedy. Or when the development of the mind does not keep pace with that of the body, that, too, is pathetic. And there are other forms of arrested development, more subtle, far more common, and measured by their consequences, much more sinister.

Alfred Binet started education on a significant new trial when he began to measure the mental age of children and thus revealed that psychological age may differ markedly from chronological age. A person of 30 may be on the emotional level of an average 15-year old, and a boy of 10 may have developed a sense of responsibility and stability ordinarily not arrived at until about 20.

When we grow up normally and properly, our mental and emotional age keeps pace with the calendar. But how numerous are the examples of arrested development: the boy who won't play when he cannot run the show; the woman who sulks when she can't have her own way; the man of 40 who, finding himself thwarted in something, takes it out by storming around the office or browbeating his wife.

The human being is born self-centered. Growing up, therefore, means to grow out of our self-centeredness into ever-expanding circles of life. Normally the family is the first group into which the child grows. Its linkage with parents extends to brothers and sisters as they come along. Pretty soon the little lips begin to lisp the words "we" and "our". Thus the family is a larger self into which the individual grows.

Then follows growth into other circles. Basil Matthews in his book, "Clash of Color," tells of standing with the sports coach of an international college. They were watching a practice team of boys drawn from all parts of the world. Matthews asked the coach, "What special difficulty do you find in training a team like this?"

"A real hard nut to crack", replied the coach, "is just this. These fellows come from countries where the whole idea of team play is unknown. Each, at the beginning of his football training, wants to dribble the ball down the field at his own feet and score the goal himself for his own glory. So I have won the battle not only for the boy as a member of the team, but for his whole life-job when I have taught him to pass."

Yes, it's a great advance in growth when we learn "to pass", to grow out of our little self-centeredness into the family, the community, the nation, the whole family of God, for "he hath made of one blood all the nations to dwell together on all the face of the earth." A man may be self-centered, but no man can be self-contained. He must link himself to his environment, and the quality of his life depends on the quality of these linkages. Hence, we need a divine safeguard for our human linkages with life.

To be sure, the roots of human nature are unchanged by time. The child of 1952 is born with the same impulses and emotional drives as the child of 2,000 B.C. But the roots of human nature can be trained to grow up in ways that transcend the old Adam in us.

The trouble with so many of us is that we think we are growing up when we are only getting ahead. We are such go-getters that we struggle

Atlantic City, N. J.—Formosa, with its two million Chinese refugees, constitutes the first refuge that any nation, over-run by communism has had from which to reorganize and prepare for recovery, Bishop Richard C. Raines of Indianapolis told his colleagues of the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church. The bishops held their semi-annual meeting here November 17-21.

Bishop Raines, who had just returned from Korea, Japan and Formosa, reported on his visitation to Protestant chaplains under sponsorship of the Army chief of Chaplains. During one eight-day period the bishop preached eighteen times. In uniform, with simulated rank of major general, Bishop Raines visited front line positions, ministered in hospitals, conferred with President Syngman Rhee, concluding the interview with prayer. President Rhee is a Methodist, having represented his church as a delegate to the 1912 General Conference in Los Angeles.

The 2,000,000 Chinese in Formosa, Bishop Raines said, have a spirit and purpose like that of our own Pilgrim forefathers. Many of them left the mainland with only what they could carry in two suitcases. They look to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as the only hope of China and await the day when they can go back under his leadership and free their homeland.

Much more is known in Formosa of what is going on in the mainland than one would expect, the Bishop said. "There is great dissatisfaction. No regime ever disillusioned its victims so quickly."

The Chinese have about 500,000 troops in Formosa, half of whom are first rate fighting men. They are now being trained and equipped.

Critics of the Generalissimo's Christianity should remember that he came into his new faith in middle life. "I believe his religion is sound," Bishop Raines told the bishops. "He has daily devotions from 5:30 to 6:30 each morning. I talked with the pastor of the church he set up when he came to Formosa. It is a small brick sanctuary, seats about 100, has a foot-pedal organ and is about 300 feet from his home."

Chinese in Formosa were skeptical about the sincerity of the communists' desire for peace, Bishop Raines reported. "They feel that the truce talks are only a device to gain time. Chinese recalled that in their homeland the communists at certain points carried on truce negotiations with the same stalling tactics they are now using in Korea for as long as four years."

Bishop Raines' informants in Formosa, while looking to the third world war as the most favorable time to stage their return to the Chinese mainland, feel that the Russians are realistic and will not start all-out war until they are fully ready. So long as America can maintain superior strength and can avoid the leak of new weapon information to the Russians, they believe the communist will avoid general war.

"America must grow up and realize that in a world of tensions war is not like a football game that can be played, and then the players go home. If this country is to lead the world to peace, it must pay a price. Its boys will have to be in many parts of the world, but it is better to have them fighting in Korea than in California," Bishop Raines said.



BISHOP RICHARD C. RAINES

feverishly to get ahead of others instead of trying to surpass ourselves. We measure our rise in the world by our goods rather than by our goodness. As we enter the last month of the year, let each of us try to take his own measure. Use the yardstick of the little commonplace duties you do each day. One of the supreme tests of character is to be a big person in little things.

NEW INSIGHTS FROM THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION

By
DR. ROY L. SMITH

CHRISTLIKENESS HAS NO COMPETITION

By Roy L. Smith

I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus
—Philippians 1:8

I yearn after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.
—King James Version

Jesus was very explicit about the matter. We were to love the brethren as God has loved us.

Something profoundly transforming took place along the Damascus road, when the killer

was changed into a lover of the saints. And precisely that transformation is the miracle this old world needs, if its feet are ever to be set upon the way of peace.

"I could find all manner of flaws in his logic, and some of the reasons which seemed to carry so much weight with him appeared little better than ridiculous to me. But I could not resist the Christlikeness of the man. I could find no answer to that argument." So spoke a highly intellectual business man who has given his heart to Christ, joined the Church, and was sitting every sabbath under the ministry of a very ordinary preacher. Ordinary, that is, in matters of scholarship, learning, and preaching skills. He was far from ordinary—very extraordinary in fact—in the quality of the life he lived in Christ Jesus.

This world has never found a satisfactory substitute for simple Christlikeness. The fact is that the pagan world felt, somehow instinctively, that God was expressing his great love through Paul and this explains the great Apostle's amazing skill in planting the Church in scores of the great cities of the ancient world. It was more than a pretty phrase he used when he said, in his

famous thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, "Love never fails." He had tried the principle out and had found that it worked. It was his love for the world and the saints which had made him the success he had become. His love was like that of Christ's.

There is a tremendous outreach in the word "yearn." It is as though the heart of the preacher was under a terrible strain, to the point of actual suffering. There is something just a little reminiscent of the sweat that dropped off the Master's brow as though it had been drops of blood. Let any Church love its community in that fashion, and something is certain to happen.

TRUNKLINE TRAVELERS

(Continued from page 1)

To be an active member of the church in good standing is man's most priceless possession. We know it ourselves when testing times come. Our loved ones prize it above all else when we slip away. Our relation to the church is one thing we should never trifle with.

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE NEWS

By Mrs. W. F. Bates

Mrs. Eugene Fohrell, Sparkman, suffered severe burns on both hands recently, and is recuperating in the Baptist Hospital in Little Rock. Mrs. Fohrell has been District Director of Children's Work in the Arkadelphia District for a number of years, and is known and loved throughout the Little Rock Conference. Her many friends wish for her a speedy recovery.

Recent contributions to the Fay McRae Library Fund:

Monticello (Juniors)\$2.50
Humphrey 2.00

Training Classes have been held recently in the following places:

Oaklawn had a three unit-school with Rev. Robert Beasley teaching a course on Stewardship; Miss Margaret Marshall a course on the Methodist Youth Fellowship; and Mrs. W. F. Bates a course on Teaching Children.

Emmett on Nov. 30—Dec. 2, had a three-unit school. Rev. Noel Cross taught the course on Working with Adults. Miss Margaret Marshall the course on The Methodist Youth Fellowship, and Mrs. W. F. Bates the course on Plans of the Church for Children.

Pine Bluff, First Church, Mrs. Herbert Monday taught the course on Teaching Children, for the children's workers of the church. There were 17 enrolled, and 11 received credit.

Keith Memorial, Malvern, Nov. 30—Dec. 2. Mrs. Herbert Monday taught the course Teaching Children, 7 received credit, 11 were enrolled.

NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF MEMBER

Nashville, Tenn.—The Rev. Ernest T. Dixon, Jr., who was elected a staff member of the Division of the Local Church, General Board of Education, at its organization meeting in Chicago on September 9, has taken over his new duties in the Division's Department of General Church School Work.

Prior to his election to the Division staff, Mr. Dixon was executive secretary of the West Texas conference board of education, with headquarters in Austin.

The new staff member was born in San Antonio, Texas, and completed his public school training there. He is a graduate of Samuel Huston College (magna cum laude), of Drew Theological Seminary, and has done further study at Oberlin Graduate School of Theology.

For five and a half years Mr. Dixon served as director of the Religious Extension Service at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Also he served for one and a half years as visiting professor in the Rural Church department, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. While serving at Tuskegee he was given a leave of absence to work as a traveling secretary for the Student Volunteer Movement.

Mr. Dixon was appointed by the Home Missions Council of North America, now the Division of Home Missions of the National Council of Churches, as one of its representa-

ADULT INSTITUTES SCHEDULED

Good news for adult classes in the Louisiana Conference is announced in the coming of the Rev. Robert Clemmons of the General Board staff for the week of January 19.

Mr. Clemmons is one of the most popular leaders of the nation in the field of adult work.

Mr. Clemmons will conduct district workshops for teachers and presidents of adult classes, dealing with methods, literature, and education.

Schedule of the workshops is as follows:

January 19—Ruston
January 20—Monroe
January 21—Baton Rouge
January 22—Lake Charles
January 23—New Orleans

HENDRIX AFFILIATES WITH COLUMBIA IN ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Conway, Ark. — Hendrix College is one of thirty-six liberal arts colleges of this country affiliated with Columbia University of New York in a program intended to broaden the cultural background of the university's engineering graduates. Under the program potential engineers may take a three-year liberal arts course at Hendrix, continue with a two-year course at Columbia's school of engineering, and at the end of the five years receive the appropriate bachelor's degree from Hendrix and the bachelor of science in engineering from Columbia. Among other Methodist schools participating in the program are Albion, Baldwin-Wallace, Millsaps and Wofford Colleges and DePauw University.—Campus News.

NEW LEADERSHIP TRAINING TEXT

Nashville, Tennessee — The Editorial Division of the General Board of Education has announced the publication of a new leadership training text entitled *The Recreation Leader*, written by the Rev. E. O. Harbin. The text was published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press for the Cooperative Publication Association and was edited in the offices of the Editorial Division of the Board of Education. Mr. Harbin is a nationally known authority in the field of recreation. His volume shows how to discover and develop recreation leaders in the church and community, how to base a recreation program on a wholesome philosophy of life, and how to evaluate correctly the role of recreation in character training. It contains 128 pages and sells for \$1.50.

tives at the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Mrs. Dixon, the former Lois Brown, is a graduate of Tillotson College. The Dixons have three children—Freddie, eight, Ernest Reese, five, and Murial Jean born on October 22.

Democracy is nothing but an attempt to apply the principles of the Bible to a human society.—Wallace C. Speers, Pulpit Digest.

NEED FOR CONFERENCE DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S WORK

Nashville, Tenn.—The Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education is cooperating with the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations in calling attention to the need for conference directors of children's work.

In a recent issue of "Christian Vocations Guide," a bulletin of the Interboard Committee, Miss Mary Alice Jones, director of the Department of the Christian Education of Children, writes about the duties and qualifications of conference directors of children's work. Their chief duties are: Promoting children's work in leadership education schools and vacation church schools in the districts; counseling with local churches in the matters of building, equipment, arrangement, recruiting and selection of teachers, and organization of children's work in the church.

"The qualifications for this position are high," says Miss Jones. "Since it involves a great deal of travel over the conference, persons must be in excellent physical condition . . . It requires psychological maturity, the ability to work with people without dominating them, to make suggestions without arousing antagonisms, and the ability to make compromises in working situations."

Miss Jones points out that experience in working with children is essential for the conference director. Also, "Maturity is an asset when one is dealing with adults who teach children, with ministers and with district superintendents. It would be unlikely that a young woman just out of college would be able to cope with the problems that might arise in a position of this sort. She probably should have had at least two years of experience either in working in a local church or in teaching school or in some related activity which brought her in contact with children. She should be between 24 and 35 years of age."

According to records kept in the office of the Local Church Division, 30 of the 104 annual conferences in the United States, its territories and Cuba have full-time directors of children's work. Four conferences

have part-time children's workers and 57 have volunteer workers. The remaining thirteen conferences do not have children's workers. This last group is composed of several mission and provisional conferences, a newly formed conference, and a number of conferences that for one reason or another are without children's workers and are seeking qualified persons for this job. A number of conferences that now have part-time or volunteer workers are looking for qualified persons to become full-time directors of children's work.

Positions in this field are open in all jurisdictions of the Methodist Church. Vacation and salary vary in the different conferences. For further information write to Miss Mary Alice Jones, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

OLDER ADULT PARTY AT CONWAY

The Home Department of the Church School at First Church, Conway, is doing a splendid piece of work. There are one hundred three members, and fourteen workers. Besides distributing the literature once a quarter, they visit in every one of the homes and distribute also the Upper Room.

On November 25th, this department sponsored a Thanksgiving Party, for the Older Adults of the church, with the members of the Home Department as honor guests. In spite of the torrential rain Monday and until noon Tuesday, a large group responded to the invitation and a most enjoyable time was had. Suitable games, pleasant conversation and a devotional meditation led by the pastor, with delicious refreshments served from a beautiful tea table, made the time pass all too swiftly.

Miss Sue Osment, who is Educational Assistant of the church, led the games, and admitted that these folks who were in the Jubilee years, responded as well even as her younger groups. Mrs. Wendell Henry is the superintendent of the department. Various women of the church prepared and served the refreshments. Mrs. C. M. Reves and Mrs. C. N. Guice served at the tea table. —C. N. Guice, Minister of Visitation.

CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS CONFERENCE

The annual Christian Vocations Conference will be held on Centenary College campus, January 9, 10, and 11. This conference will be for high school seniors, college students, and young adults interested in some form of church work as a career. Guidance will be given in the various fields and necessary preparation will be discussed. Those who are undecided will form a special group.

Rev. Don Wineinger of Delhi is chairman of the Conference Commission on Christian Vocations and will be dean of the conference.

ARKANSAS METHODIST

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BARS OFFICIAL GRAHAM TOUR OF KOREA

EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM has been advised by the Department of Defense that it is not possible for the Armed Forces to sponsor an evangelistic crusade by him among American servicemen in Korea at this time.

The Pentagon, however, in a formal letter to Dr. Graham, apparently held the door open for him to make a trip to the Far East at his own expense and without official sponsorship.

In such an event, the evangelist will have to confine his services to existing native churches, missions, and private auditoriums in Korea. Chaplains and servicemen could be invited to such meetings but they would not be religious services officially sponsored by the Chaplain Corps.

Dr. Graham, it was revealed, proposed to the Department of Defense early this Fall that he take his entire evangelistic team to Korea to conduct services for the men at the front. He offered to pay his own expenses from funds raised by his supporters at home.

The Chiefs of Chaplains pointed out, however, that his proposal would still involve official sponsorship since he would rely upon the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy to supply him with facilities for the services, and upon the chaplains to issue a "church call" to the troops.

The chaplaincy chiefs said they did not feel they could single out one particular evangelist for this type of campaign since a number of similar requests from various denominations have been refused in the past.

They offered as a counter proposal to sponsor a non-denominational spiritual life mission with Dr. Graham as one of a party of several clergymen from different denominational backgrounds. At the same time, special missions for Roman Catholic and Jewish servicemen, would have been arranged.

When agreement was not reached on this proposal, the Department of Defense formally notified Dr. Graham that it was unable to sponsor him in the Far Eastern theater "at this time."

Meanwhile, Dr. Graham's announcement that he plans to fly to Korea early in December was taken by the Chiefs of Chaplains here to mean that he is going under private sponsorship to speak in churches there and in Japan. The chiefs will not interpose any objection to this but will notify chaplains in the theater that Dr. Graham is not officially sponsored.

"A regular procedure exists for the sponsorship of spiritual missions among the troops and under it distinguished clergymen from all faiths and denominations have visited Korea and Europe," a spokesman for the Department of Defense said. "We feel it a fair procedure and regret that Dr. Graham did not want to utilize it at the present time. But if we made an exception in his case, we would have to do it for others."

Dr. Jones Plans Evangelistic Crusade in Japan

Plans for a third postwar evangelistic crusade in Japan by the noted Protestant missionary-evangelist, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, are being made in Tokyo. The campaign, expected to run from about Feb. 1 to the end of April, will be underwritten by Dr. Jones himself. The evangelist also has contributed \$1,000 toward the general advancement of evangelistic work in Japan. Dr. Jones conducted a month-long evangelistic mission in this country early in 1949 and returned in February, 1951, for a three-month tour during which he preached in 30 cities on the four main islands.

Protestant Lawyers Ask Daily Prayer in Schools

Approval of the State Board of Regents' proposal that public school classes be opened with a daily

prayer was urged on the Board of Education in New York in a letter from the Protestant Lawyers Association of Brooklyn. Alfred C. McKenzie, president of the group, said its board of directors was "amazed" that opposition to the proposal had been expressed at a Board of Education hearing. It also was amazed, he said, that Col. Arthur Levitt, a school board member, had suggested substituting the singing of stanzas of "America" for the proposed prayer. Asserting that "religion contributed much to the development of the public school system," the letter said that banning the proposed non-sectarian prayer would be "denuding our schools of religion to the point of absurdity." "Part of the American way of life," Mr. McKenzie continued, "is to have a rabbi, priest or minister invoke the blessing of God on legislative assemblies, national political conventions and other civic and public meetings. 'Far from creating tensions, as charged by some speakers at the school board hearing, a non-sectarian prayer would create unity.' The lawyers' association letter was addressed to Andrew G. Clauson, Board of Education president. Meanwhile, another endorsement of the Regents' proposal was forthcoming from the American Education Association, an organization of parents and teachers. A resolution adopted by the association approved the school prayer idea and called the proposed singing of stanzas of "America" an "evasion of the issue."

Clergymen Criticize Bible-Burning Minister

Clergymen of various denominations in North Carolina have taken issue with the Rocky Mount, N. C. Baptist minister who announced he would burn a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible in his church because it is "a modernistic interpretation." The minister, the Rev. Martin Luther Hux, who withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention six years ago in protest against its "modernism," said he had obtained permission from the Rocky Mount fire department to hold the book-burning. Although his objections to the new Bible version are many, Mr. Hux is most vehement in denouncing it for changing "virgin" to "young woman" in Isaiah VII; 14, an action he calls "a deliberate attack upon our historic Christian faith. One of those taking issue with Mr. Hux was Dr. Broadus Jones, pastor of First Baptist church

here, who said that "the Baptist denomination certainly doesn't agree with such a statement. It makes one doubt the learning of such people, if not their religion," Dr. Jones said. M. A. Huggins of Raleigh general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina pointed out that Mr. Hux and his congregation were not affiliated with the Convention.

Ohio Methodists Gain 7,362 Members

A total of 7,362 persons joined The Methodist Church in four Ohio districts which concluded an eight-day Methodist Evangelistic Mission. Bishop Arthur J. Moore of Atlanta, Ga., addressed some 2,000 mission participants at a Memorial Hall Victory Rally. He said that a world "in which economic systems have well-nigh collapsed and where international relationships have been poisoned" must look to Jesus alone for the solution to problems.

Reports 1,600,000 Copies Of Revised Bible Sold

A total of 1,600,000 copies of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible has been sold in the eight weeks since it was published. This was announced here by Dr. Luther A. Weigle, dean emeritus of Yale Divinity School and chairman of a committee of scholars who prepared the revision. He said that acceptance of the new work has been "far beyond our hopes." The million-copy first printing was sold out within two days of the publishing date on Sept. 30, Dr. Weigle said. More than 600,000 additional copies have been sold since then, he added,

and another big printing is now rolling off the presses. The total is regarded by booksellers as a publishing record unsurpassed in the history of book selling, Dr. Weigle said. He disclosed that two other editions of the revision are in preparation. One is a Sunday school edition which has been scheduled for publication within a year at a greatly reduced price. It will contain the full text, Dr. Weigle said, and will include introductions to the Books of the Bible. The other is a pulpit edition in large type which will be ready for publication within the next few months.

Jail Inmates Want Nightly Church Services

Inmates of the Ouachita Parish jail in Monroe, Louisiana, want church services every night of the week. In a letter to the editor of the Monroe Morning World the prisoners expressed appreciation for the spiritual help that the various churches in Monroe and West Monroe provide. The group pointed out, however, that services are held nightly except Monday and said that if possible they would like to see that date filled.

Korean Navy to Open Meetings With Prayer

An order directing that all Navy staff meetings and unit conferences be opened with a Christian prayer was issued in Seoul by the Navy Department of the Republic of Korea. Chief Naval Chaplain D. B. Chung said that the order indicated the government's recognition of the value of spiritual strength in the war against "the Communist aggressors."

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"CHILDREN ARE AN INHERITANCE"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1956

ARKANSAS METHODIST CHURCH



A Message From
BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN

In the Annual offering made to the Methodist Children's Home, our people again have the opportunity to respond to the greatest appeal known to man—the appeal of a child. In the name of Christ who loved little Children, we will give generously to our Home and thus continue its splendid service.

THANKS

The Superintendent, Staff, and children of the Methodist Children's Home wish to express our deep appreciation to The Methodist Church in Arkansas for the splendid support given the Home. As we again approach the Annual Christmas Offering for the Home, we want each one of you to know the deep thanks in our hearts for your support.

T. T. McNeal

GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE

Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes once made the statement, "The child has a natural affinity for Jesus Christ." That is, the child is naturally inclined toward the good life and will develop those qualities most desirable for a Christian character if given the proper encouragement. It takes so much less effort for the wholesome development of the character of the child than for the improper and poor development. When one seeks to develop desirable characteristics within the child he has the cooperation and support of nature itself. But on the other hand, when evil is developed it works against nature and therefore requires considerably more effort. If the same amount of effort were put behind the development of good that is put behind the development of evil, evil would soon be doomed. The young child is naturally good—morally speaking—but he does not know evil until it is taught to him. In a healthy environment the child naturally seeks out the companionship of Jesus.

Jesus recognized the innate goodness of the young child. So sure was he of it that he set the child up as an example before his disciples. "Except you be converted, and become as little Children," he instructed his disciples; for "of such is the kingdom of Heaven."



• IN THE NAME OF OUR MASTER

Church people everywhere have always said, "No child shall be allowed to suffer if we can help it". For more than fifty years now the Methodist people of Arkansas have been caring for needy children. We are making progress, we are caring for more children now than in the past but our facilities are not near large enough to meet even the emergency demands. We need more buildings in order to care for more children. In the name of our Master who loved little children, we must have these buildings.

..... HE STANDS THE STRAIGHTEST WHO STOOPS TO HELP A CHILD

"FROM THE LORD" -- All Children

BER 11th, IS

LDREN'S HOME SUNDAY

PUT THE HOME IN YOUR WILL

Many people, who have money, give considerable thought to the investment of that money so that it may continue on, after their departure from this life, doing good and serving humanity.

There are many, many Methodists in Arkansas who could do no better thing, nor make a wiser investment than to remember the Arkansas Methodist Children's Home in their Will. In this way, you would set in motion influences that will continue on in the lives and characters of others through the uncharted years ahead. Something of yourself will live on to grow and expand.

When you come to plan for the disposition of your money and property, after you have finished with it in this life, REMEMBER THE ARKANSAS METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME—Where scores of boys and girls are being housed, clothed, educated and trained for Christian citizenship and service.



Of such is the Kingdom

TODAY'S CHILDREN THE CHURCH'S FUTURE

Today's children are faced with more complexities, with greater tensions than any generation in the nation's history, in the opinion of Dr. Edward Greenwood of the Menninger Clinic. He points out that each day children are subjected to stimulations that assault their personalities. They must be helped to develop personalities that can take these assaults in stride.

How? By giving children security, understanding and acceptance which will build inner strength to face the facts and tribulations of life. Child psychologists stress this need; social workers emphasize the need for better homes, uncrowded schools and nutritional diet. To all of which churchmen say "amen," but add that religion is equally as necessary to development of healthy children.

At a meeting of the National Midcentury Committee for Children and Youth, an outgrowth of the 1950 White House Conference on Children and Youth, a minister made this important point.

"Children," he said, "must be given spiritual guidance so that they will have inner peace. Peace within each person is our hope for world peace." The job of meeting the needs of today's children is big; it's been growing. These statistics trace the size of the child-care problem:

.... about 2,000,000 children live with neither parent; nearly 4,000,000 with only one parent.

.... one out of every five mothers with children under 18 years of age works outside the home.

.... increasing numbers of infants are born outside of wedlock; in 1948 the number was nearly 50 per cent greater than 1938.

Methodist institutions have kept pace with the latest methods and developments in child care and guidance; many of its homes are exemplary of the best in the country.

Methodist homes for children have been running at capacity, have expanded their facilities and still are forced to TURN AWAY MORE THAN 2,000 A YEAR WHO APPLY FOR ADMITTANCE. Last year, additions to facilities made it possible for the 49 Methodist homes and agencies to extend care for 300 more children.

Virtually all care in church homes for children must come from endowments and contributions inasmuch as relatives and parents provide little financially.

Last year Methodist homes provided \$1,273,293 of free care to children, a substantial increase from the \$943,836 provided in 1950.

High birth rates in the last five years present both an increased responsibility and an opportunity to Methodism. Recent record-breaking crops of babies will place unprecedented demands upon health, recreational, and social welfare facilities, as well as schools.

Spiritual values are needed as a ballast and a guide by today's children more than by earlier generations. They must be equipped with the inner strength to meet the unknown vicissitudes of tomorrow. "A healthy spiritual personality" is a requisite in child development.

"I'll See To Her," said Mr. Wesley

Late one evening during his early ministry, John Wesley, in making his daily rounds of visits among the poor and the sick came into a rather darkly lighted room in which a mother lay dying. Mr. Wesley prayed with the good woman and asked how it was with her soul.

"All right," said she. "I am ready to go—but my child!" With this she broke down and sobbed—and could speak no more.

"Think not of the child," assured Mr. Wesley, "I'll see to her."

That night the mother's soul passed out to the Great Beyond. Mr. Wesley kept faith with that mother. He placed the child in a home in Epworth, England, where she was cared for. Thus was begun the work of caring for the orphan child by the "people called Methodists."



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



THE FOUR LITTLE CANDLES

By MARJORIE ALLEN ANDERSON

THEY were all exactly alike, except for their color. There they lay on the counter of the dime store—a brown candle, a red candle, a yellow candle and a white candle.

Little White Candle tried to roll away because he didn't like to touch the others.

"I'm so pure and white!" he boasted to himself. "I must be worth much more than any of my brothers—especially Brownie. I think he's dirty."

At that moment Danny came into the store with his mother. "We need a candle," Danny said to the clerk, "a beautiful candle for something special. My birthday and Christmas come the same day!"

"What color would you like?" asked the girl, pointing to the candles.

"He will choose me!" whispered Little White Candle to the others. "He wants a beautiful candle for something special."

"How much are they?" Danny asked.

"All just the same—five cents each," said the clerk. "Which do you want?"

"Me the same price as the others?" Little White Candle was surprised and hurt.

Danny looked them over carefully. "Let's take all four, Mother," he said.

"I think we'll need all four," agreed Mother. Danny counted out four nickels.

"I can't believe it," Little White Candle growled.

That afternoon there was great fun at Danny's house. Tomorrow would be Christmas, the birthday of the Christ Child; yes, and Danny's very own birthday, too. He helped Mother bake a big chocolate birthday cake with chocolate icing, his



favorite kind.

The four little candles lay side by side on the kitchen table, watching and waiting.

"And now put a birthday candle right in the center of the cake," said Mother. "Which one shall it be?"

"Me, of course! Danny will choose me for his birthday cake," said Little White Candle, sure of himself again. "I am white, and I am the most beautiful!"

Little Red Candle was sad.

Little Yellow Candle was sad.

Little Brown Candle was sad.

Danny looked them over carefully.

"I choose this one," he decided. "I want this pretty brown one in the center of my birthday cake. It just matches the chocolate frosting."

"Would you like to put a candle on the tiptop of your metal Christmas tree that we always put on the mantel?" asked Mother.

"Oh, yes—this pretty red one," Danny answered.

"Perhaps it would be fun," suggested Mother, "to burn a candle in the window tonight on Christmas eve."

"Yes," said Danny. "I'd like the yellow one, for it looks like yellow moonlight."

"Now what shall we do with the

white candle?" wondered Mother. "It's the only one left."

"We could use that one to light the basement," Danny decided. "Daddy and I still have to finish your Christmas gift."

"Me in the basement!" snorted Little White Candle.

But of course Danny couldn't understand candle talk so he went on to say, "I'm glad we took them all, for we do need them all, don't we, Mother? I like every one, and don't know which is the prettiest."

"Neither do I," said Mother, "but after all, it isn't the color that matters. When they are lighted, no one will notice the color. It's the shining that counts."

"Yes, it's the shining that counts," repeated Danny.

"Why, I never thought of it that way," puzzled Little White Candle. "If it's the shining that counts, I'll shine wherever Danny puts me, as brightly as I can."

So Little Brown Candle shone from the center of Danny's birthday cake.

Little Red Candle shone from the tip-top of the metal Christmas tree on the mantel.

Little Yellow Candle shone in the window on Christmas eve.

Little White Candle shone in the basement to help Danny and Daddy finish Mother's Christmas gift. And they all made everyone happy.—The Christian Advocate

WHEN MORNING LEADS THE CHRISTMAS IN

Where's all the racket, all the noise? Where's all the romping girls and boys?

They're all in bed, I do believe—Why, yes, of course, it's Christmas Eve.

And so the house is still tonight, For every one is tucked up tight, To dream of Santa and his sleigh, And well-filled stockings Christmas Day.

But, oh, the frolic will begin, And mom will smile and dad will grin

At all the youngsters' noise and din When morning leads the daylight in.

The children went to bed at eight, And never coaxed to stay up late; And they won't need a call or shake Tomorrow morning, for they'll wake Long, long before it's time to rise, And want to see the grand surprise. And when you hear them coming down, You'll know that you're in Bedlam-town.

For, oh, the frolic will begin, And mom will smile and dad will grin

At all the youngsters' noise and din When morning leads the Christmas in.—Margie A. Jerauld in Ex.

JUST FOR FUN

CHILDREN EVERYWHERE

Christmas is not far away,
It is such a happy day.

Little folks all love it so
As their eyes with wonder glow.

Day we honor Jesus' birth
Singing "Peace, goodwill on earth".

May little children everywhere
Know His tender, loving care.
—A.E.W.

A Seattle firm, having difficulty in making a collection, finally wrote: "Dear Mr. Jones: What would your neighbors think if we came to your town and repossessed your car?"

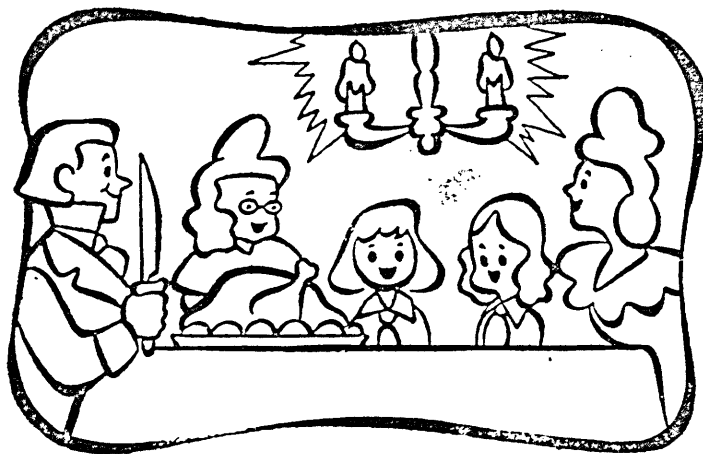
A week later they received their letter back. Scrawled on it was: "Sir: I took the above matter up with my neighbors and they think it would be a lousy trick. Sincerely, Lester Jones."—Indiana Telephone News



PART 10 ANN AND THE LITTLE PUPPY A Happy Decision

Martha's father was a very rich and wise man. He listened to Ann's story . . . how she had found the puppy and cared for him. And because he was a kind man, too, he quickly made up his mind. "Let's give the puppy to Ann, Martha," he said, "because that's where Bobby

wants to stay." Then he invited Ann and her grandmother to have dinner with them. On their way, they stopped at a shop where Martha's father insisted on buying a pretty dress for Ann and one for her grandmother, too. They didn't want him to, but he was so kind that they accepted the gift.



PART 11 And An Even Happier One

What a wonderful dinner! More food than Ann had ever seen at one time. A tremendous turkey with all the fixings . . . even Bobby had a big piece. Ann and her grandmother met Martha's mother, a sweet and lovely lady. And in Martha, Ann knew she had found a real friend! As the ice cream was served, Martha

whispered to her mother for a moment. Then her mother said, "Martha wants me to ask you both if you will stay here and live with us. Will you? Bobby too, of course." Ann was too happy to even talk, but her grandmother answered, "If you really want us, yes! We'll stay."

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. EWING T. WAYLAND, Editor

TO SECRETARIES OF YOUTH

Dear Secretaries,

Are you making plans for the study of Africa in January? It is time to begin collecting resource material for the Sunday School teachers so that they can make those four sessions really meaningful.

As you know, the missionary units are included in the materials for the Sunday morning and Sunday evening sessions of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Since the study of "Home Missions and Human Rights" will be in the material for next summer, we can wait until spring for that. Let's concentrate on Africa NOW.

If your commission has a scrap book of clippings about Africa in a prominent place, it will awaken interest in the study. Let every one have a share in it by bringing clippings each Sunday. The newspapers have been full of such information recently.

Study without action has little value. What action can grow out of this study? Since we cannot go to Africa to help these missionaries, we will have to do the next best thing — send supply boxes or cash supplies. If you decide to make a cash gift to one of our projects in Africa, turn the money over to the treasurer of your local W. S. C. S.

Or you can combine recreation and action by having a social to which you bring supplies for one of our mission projects; you can pack your boxes at the party; everyone can help.

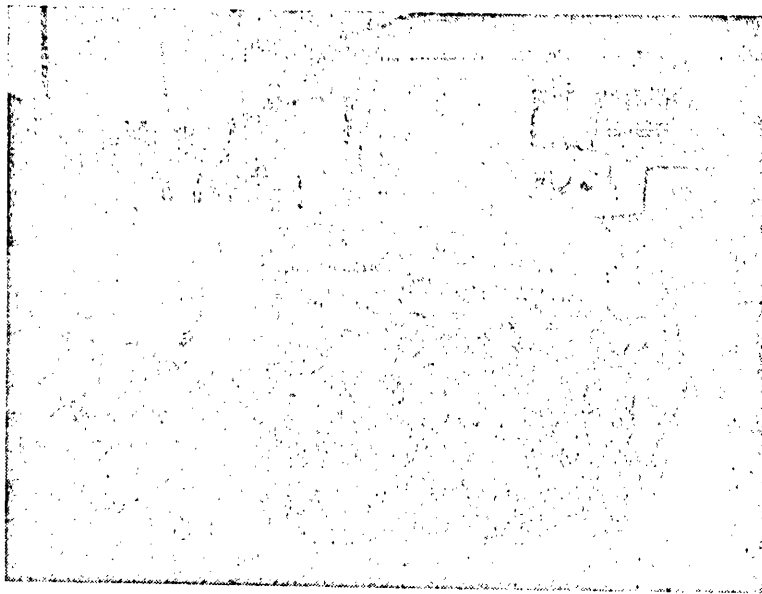
I have looked through the leaflet S. O. S.; COMMISSION ON MISSIONS AND WORLD FRIENDSHIP for a project in Africa needing supplies from young people. No project is listed, but there are several places in the U. S. where there is work among negroes. Why not send a box of supplies to one of these: Allen High School, 331 College St., Asheville, N. C., Brewster Hospital, Miss Florene Jones, Jacksonville, 4, Fla.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J. T. Folk
Louisiana Conference
Secretary of Youth Work

MISSIONARY STUDIES FOR CHILDREN

"Africa" will be the topic for mission study with Primary and Junior children during the winter quarter. When careful preparation has been made by the teachers the children will find the study of absorbing interest and value. In the Sunday sessions of the Church School where Group Graded lesson materials are used the missionary unit on Africa will be taught in regular Church School sessions, but this is not sufficient time to present the study. Therefore, plan to have additional sessions for the Primaries and Juniors. Missionary units appear in the regular lesson materials of the Primary Closely Graded courses in January and February. Therefore, it is an appropriate time to study Africa at additional sessions. Missionary units for Juniors appear in the regular Closely Graded lessons materials for April and May and teachers may wish to have additional sessions for Juniors during those months. Regardless of what mater-

MARY MITCHELL WRITES FROM HIROSHIMA



Hiroshima, Japan
12 November, 1952

Dear Friends:

Yesterday as I walked along the rice fields and up the path of our nearest hill, I wished that you could be here, sharing the beauty of Japan with me. This is the time for the harvesting of the rice, so the fields are really golden with the ripened grain. And the evergreens on the hills are interspersed with bright red maple trees, yellow trees, and sumac. Hiroshima is a city of seven rivers, so from any mountain top you can always look down on a blue stream of water flowing through the city.

But all is not beauty here—

The farmers, men and women, are standing in knee deep mud to harvest their rice, working from dawn until late in the evening.

The women stand on the street at dusk, catching hold of men who pass, hoping to earn money to feed themselves and family.

The butchers and shoemakers are isolated from society, looked down upon.

The Korean people are blamed for Communistic activities, find few jobs within the law, are refused entrance in schools.

In the midst of this I am living and understanding no language. It was a lot harder for me to adjust here than in China. There I felt immediately at home, trying to speak

ials are used, whether Group Graded or Closely Graded, plan for additional sessions on Sunday afternoon or during the week at which time the study of Africa will be presented. This study is in keeping with the church-wide mission topic, the WSCS study, and the youth study. Let's share it with the children.

Order from the Methodist Publishing House, Dallas, Texas, January issue, 1953, of *Child Guidance, Trails for Juniors, Pictures and Stories* will contain much material on Africa. Refer to pages 21-24 of December, 1952, *Methodist Woman*, for information about offerings and cash supplies from children's groups.

Mrs. James C. Whitaker
Secretary, Children's Work
Louisiana Conference

Chinese from the first day. Now, after a month's time, I am just beginning to feel my way around. How I wish I knew Japanese!

Peggy and I are living with Miss Kate Cooper and Tamura San. I am so glad to be living in a Japanese house with its thick straw mats, its sliding paper walls dividing the rooms, its glassed-in porches where the sun streams in. And now that winter is approaching, the Japanese bath with its hot water that comes up to your neck is very inviting. (Course it's rather chilly scrubbing off before hand, but once you get passed that stage, it's really nice.)

Our language teacher, Mr. Kim, comes five mornings a week to help us with our Korean. Last week Peggy spent all week long working on her Sunday School lesson and then Sunday morning the one who interprets from Korean into Japanese couldn't come, so it looked as though all her efforts were going to be in vain, but at the last minute another interpreter showed up. Last week I was working with Mr. Kim to translate some Japanese Sunday School material into Korean. This week I have been digging in—to the study of Acts. I have spent hours on it and still haven't gotten out of the first chapter!

Besides our language study we are trying to work with the Koreans — and it is trying, for the children and young people speak Japanese almost to the last person. But I'm real grateful for this time with them. The Korean church here is not very large. They meet in a room in a house; it must be a little larger than a double garage. I am helping with

(Continued on page 15)

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Paris Wesleyan Service Guild was hostess to approximately sixty members of the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Christian Missionary Societies at a dinner November 17 at the church. Africa was the theme of the meeting, and the guest speaker was Miss Louise Long, missionary of Africa. The program was led by Mrs. LaVerne Thompson, and she was assisted by Mrs. H. W. Walker, Mrs. Joe Niehouse, the High School Trio composed of Jeanne

SHREVEPORT COUNCIL SPONSORS NEIGHBORHOOD OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

The Shreveport Council of Church Women, under the leadership of Mrs. C. C. Semon, is sponsoring this year a Neighborhood Observance of the Birth of Jesus Christ. It is planned that sometime in the week of December 14 children of the neighborhood will be gathered into one of the homes for the observance. At this time the scripture, read by a child, songs, stories of Jesus and prayers for peace and good will will be offered.

The use of worship centers, pictures and books, possibly film strips, is urged. Simple refreshments, with a child's grace, can also be a part of this.

It is possible that the children might work out a neighborhood project, of sharing, of kindness, of good will. It is suggested that a theme picture be "Suffer the little children to come unto me" Plockhorst.

The overall objective is "to inaugurate an annual observance of Christmas in the neighborhoods for and by the children for the purpose of evangelization among children; to aid as Homemakers and Mothers in raising up a generation of children in the understanding of the basic foundation of Christianity; to integrate into not only Christmas, but all seasons the song the angels sang, "Peace on Earth, good will to men."—Mrs. James C. Whitaker.

Hampton, Laura Ann Elliott and Joyce Haskew, Mrs. Bernard Burry and Mrs. W. T. Stewart.

Mrs. Wayne Tilman, president of the Guild, had in charge of arrangements Mrs. John Daniels, Mrs. Byron Shirley, Mrs. Pauline Funkhauser, and Miss Thompson.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock, has carpeted the chancel and center aisle of the church. Mrs. A. L. Garthwaite and Mrs. J. W. Workman head the committee. Mrs. H. E. Donnell is president of the society.

The Van Buren Society had as their Christmas luncheon topic, "Let Every One Prepare Him Room", with Mrs. Fay Williams, Mrs. Bohanan, Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Lucond participating. — Mrs. Fay Williams.

The Gardner Memorial Church Guild held its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church, November 18, at 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Carl Sadler presided over the meeting. Miss Dorothy Bridenthal gave the devotional and presented Miss Reva Dodd in several vocal numbers.

Miss Hanna Kelly, former Little Rock Conference Secretary, was the guest speaker and brought to the members and visitors much information as well as inspiration in regard to Guild work. Miss Mildred Scott, Chairman of decorations carried out the Thanksgiving motif with "Pine Cone Turkeys" as place cards. The delicious Turkey dinner was served by the Woman's Society.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

CAMDEN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MEETS

The eighty-seventh session of the Camden District Conference of the Methodist Church was called to order promptly at 9:30 a. m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Parker's Chapel Church with Dr. R. Connor Morehead, District Superintendent, presiding, and Rev. Charles W. Baughman the host pastor. In spite of a hard down-pour of rain, which continued until the noon hour, there was an unusually large delegation from all the churches of the district, and a number of visitors from outside the district.

The meeting opened with the singing of Hymn No. 255, "True Hearted, Whole Hearted," under the direction of Rev. David Hankins. Rev. James McCammon led the opening prayer. Rev. John L. Tucker was elected the conference secretary and completed the roll. Dr. Morehead announced the nominations to the respective committees and they were unanimously elected. Rev. David Hankins was the conference statistician.

Speakers on the program during the day and their subjects were: Honorable W. D. McKay, on "Tithing," Rev. Elmer L. Thomas, on "U. S. Income Tax Exemption and Personal Income Expenditures," Rev. John L. Tucker, on "Temperance," Rev. Fred W. Schwendimann, on "Evangelism." Dr. A. W. Martin, of Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas, and Vice-President of the Division of National Missions of the General Board, delivered the principal message of the day at 11:00 o'clock, with Rev. Russell Shaffer, reading the scripture, and Rev. Charles W. Baughman, leading the prayer. Rev. Doyle T. Rowe spoke on "The Golden Cross," Rev. Roy E. Fawcett, on "Education," Drs. Matt Ellis, and Claude M. Reeves, on "Hendrix College," Dr. E. T. Wayland, on "The Arkansas Methodist," Rev. T. T. McNeal, on "The Methodist Children's Home," Dr. W. Neill Hart, on "World Service and Finance," and Mrs. W. Neill Hart, on "Children's Work." Mrs. George C. Smith, gave a report for the "Courtesy Committee." At the close of the eleven o'clock worship service a love offering in the amount of \$463.78 was given for the Rev. J. A. Newell, a patient at the Booneville Sanatorium, whose wife had died

during the year, leaving a small daughter and an elderly mother as the dependents of Brother Newell.

Rev. R. B. Moore, chairman of the Ministerial Qualifications Committee, presented the report and spoke on the work and findings of that committee. The following young men were licensed to preach: Donald G. Thompson, of Taylor; Doyne Eldridge Graham, of Stamps; John H. Smith, of Lewisville; Oscar A. Hair, of Smackover; and Buster L. Tallent, of El Dorado. John Griggs Greening and Rufus Claude Stone, Jr. were recommended for admissions on trial. Maron Pearce and Bruce H. Bean were recommended for ordination.

The statistical report for the first half of the conference year showed the following: Additions to church membership by certificate 246, and by profession of faith 166, or a total of 412. The report also showed that 84 babies had been baptized. Monies raised for World Service \$13,648; for Area Fund \$250; for Methodist Information \$134; for General and Jurisdictional Fund \$903; for Interdenominational Cooperation \$282; for retired ministers and endowment \$7,230.82; and for University of Arkansas Wesley Foundation \$2,000; or a total of \$24,936.82 for these regular conference items. A total of \$2,896.40 for the first half of the year was reported for Hendrix College and Ministerial Training. Also reported was \$34,858.92 for buildings and improvements throughout the district. The Woman's Society of Christian Service reported a total of \$5,635 for the first half of the year. All salaries for preachers, which has a larger assessment over last year, had been paid in full for the first half of the year.

A bountiful covered dish dinner, which had been brought by those attending the session of the conference, was served in a most attractive way by the women of the host church, who also served the drinks at the noon hour. There was enough food left over to serve another such group.

Upon the invitation of D. C. Perry, an outstanding layman of the Waldo Methodist Church, the conference unanimously voted to go to Waldo for the next District Conference one year from now.—John L. Tucker

"THE YOUNG MARRIED CIRCUIT RIDERS"

Several months ago Rev. D. P. Remaley, pastor of Widener-Round Pond, seeing the need for a closer fellowship between the four churches of his charge, suggested we organize a young married couples group on the charge. This group to meet once a month in the homes for prayer, devotionals, programs, and entertainment. His suggestions met wholehearted approval with the people of the charge.

Although we had held previous meetings, we officially organized the group on November 19th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jolly. Our program was given by Mrs. Jolly and Mrs. Jack Vaughn. During the business session we decided to bring toys, food, and money to

our December meeting to prepare baskets for the needy in our community.

A committee was appointed to decide where to place the baskets. Mrs. Remaley invited the group to the parsonage for the Christmas meeting. The name of the group is officially "The Young Married Circuit Riders." Our officers are: President, A. L. Deuereux; Vice president, R. J. Jones; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Carruth Linn; Reporter, Mrs. Louis Jones.

Our attendance has been excellent. We have had an average of 28 adults at each meeting. Entertainment is provided for the children and we have had from nine to fifteen present at each meeting. Adults from each of the four churches on the charge have been coming regularly and we hope to steadily increase our attendance.—Reporter

HOT SPRINGS PRESENTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Hot Springs—Christmas Eve is a big occasion at this century-old combination Spa and federally owned Park. The citizens here claim their observance is the most Christmasy of any of the Spas and national parks.

They point out that no other place in all America has for 21 consecutive years presented an outdoor program telling the story of the Nativity, with pageantry, by song and with narration, on such a mammoth and spectacular scale. And, nowhere else have all participants contributed their services to make the event a real community gift to the resort's Yule visitors.

Elizabeth Bowe Sims originated the Hot Springs program in 1931 and through the years has trained and directed the participants. The titian haired talented musician is a graduate of the Northwestern School of Music, Chicago.

Simultaneously with the singing of favorite carols by the Hot Springs Choral Club, colorful pageantry scenes are spotlighted. This portion of the program is planned and directed by the Community Players group, with Vassar graduate Ann Stell McDaniel in charge.

The program site is at the northern end of Hot Springs' showplace, Bath House Row. The traditional affair is annually scheduled for the same site, date and hour, Christmas Eve at 9 p. m. Mrs. Charles H. Lutterloh is general advisor.

Bath House Row, lined with its scores of evergreen magnolia and red berry laden living holly Christmas trees, is always ablaze with varicolored lighting along the famous promenade.

From the very beginning this pro-

gram, under the joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, has been a community project. Tourists who come miles to see the program say it is one of the most inspiring and elaborate outdoor community Christmas programs anywhere in the nation.

The multicolored illuminated Christmas lights, which are festooned across Hot Springs' business streets, are made possible by Hot Springs merchants, under the sponsorship of the Hot Springs Kiwanis Club. The lighting decorative scheme features stars and bells.

The pageantry stage is on a picturesque high bluff overlooking the heart of the city and Bath House Row. From the bluff, the singers, white vested and carrying lighted candles, file down a winding mountain trail in a candlelight procession into the valley below, where Nature has created a perfect amphitheatre. In this amphitheatre is located a large evergreen-covered tiered singers' platform directly below the pageantry stage. The singers' platform has been constructed to look like a huge outdoor pipe organ. From a real organ amid the evergreen decorations, music by the official organist, Richard G. Morris, Jr., a former Great Lakes Training School choir director, peals out through the "Valley of Living Waters".

The City of Hot Springs, the church choirs, the Army and Navy General Hospital, the National Forest Service, Radio Station KTHS and the Arkansas Power and Light Company all enter into this great cooperative occasion for the pleasure of the resort's Yule visitors.

KINGSLAND HAS UNION THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A Union Thanksgiving Service was conducted in the Kingsland Methodist Church. The First and Second Baptist Churches, the Assembly of God Churches, the Hebron Methodist, and the Presbyterian Church, all took part in the services. The Rev. P. D. Alston pastor of the Methodist Church preached the Thanksgiving sermon.

The pastors of the Baptist Churches, the pastor of the Assembly of God Church and the Rev. Mr. Slye of the Presbyterian Church were on the program. Brother Alston brought what every one said was a very outstanding message. A large crowd was present.—Reporter

The only way to acquire contentment is to tune your yearning and earning capacities to the same wavelength.—Tit-Bits, London

ROSE CITY METHODIST CHURCH TO BE ORGANIZED


At a meeting of the NLR City Board of Church Location on Sunday, December 16, it was voted to accept the gift of Mr. J. F. Warden of a plot of ground in Rose City, and to proceed immediately to organize a Methodist church. Herbert Collins, Paul Davis, and our pastor are representatives from our church on this City Board of Church Location.

At the suggestion of the secretary, William Wilder, the Board adopted a plan that had been used in the organizing of the Sylvan Hills Church — namely that the pastors of NLR cooperate in organizing a revival service in Rose City, and that from the nucleus of membership obtained, a church be formed.

Later, a student pastor could be obtained, and as the church grew, a full-time ministry could be employed.

It is good to see this type of planning so that Methodism can reach out to new areas from time to time. It is hoped that our membership will help this new church to start, just as we were helped not so long ago,

5,000 CHRISTIAN WORKERS WANTED
to sell Bibles, Testaments, good books, handsome Scripture mottoes, Scripture calendars, greeting cards. Good commission. Send for free catalog and price-list.
George W. Noble, The Christian Co.
Dept. D, Pontiac Bldg., Chicago 5, Ill.



"Along A Country Road"

The North Arkansas Conference

The Town and Country Commission

The Methodist Church

Hendrix Station, Conway, Arkansas

Paul E. Martin, Bishop

Mr. Lester Hutchins,
Vice-President

Rev. Floyd G. Villines,
President

Rev. David P. Conyers,
Secretary

Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, Executive Secretary

NATURAL AREA APPROACH IN SERVING THE RURAL CHURCH

By REV. FLOYD G. VILLINES, President, Town
and Country Commission

I do not come today presuming to be an authority on the Group ministry and Natural area program. I come, rather, as a seeker, just as you are seekers, trying to discover ways by which I can serve the Church more effectively and do my Father's work more acceptably. I am not presenting the theories concerning this movement. We have all heard these either presented here or on the floor of our Annual Conference. A few books and several articles have been written on this type of program. You have probably read some of these. If you have not, there are prepared bibliographies that will guide you in your selection of materials.

Today, I am coming as a witness, bringing a testimony of what this type of work has meant to me and what it means to me now in my ministry, and telling of the work that is being done today in an area of our conference.

As is true of most ministers, my first charges were circuits composed of rural churches. I served two such circuits while attending school, one in the North Arkansas Conference. It was my good fortune to be raised in a Methodist parsonage, and it was there I learned to love the Methodist Church and appreciate its program. While this background did help me in my first appointments, I discovered many things that I did not know, and many times I experienced a loneliness. If someone had been near, or if several persons of "kindred minds" had been near to share their knowledge and by their sympathetic attitudes give courage, it would have meant a great deal. But this was lacking. The pastors of the larger churches nearby were friendly, and we had a speaking acquaintance. They were quite busy with their own affairs. I was reluctant to bother them with my loneliness, or try to escape from my loneliness by always running to them. I had excellent district superintendents, but they were not close by, and they had a whole district for which they were responsible.

There were so many things that needed to be done. There were lots of people scattered over the circuit, and the Methodist Church was challenging her people with a great program, the Crusade for Christ! But with only one Sunday a month for each church, a lack of trained leadership, and the absence of vision, we were not able to do very much. Not far away there were trained leaders, there were untapped resources, and there were people who had caught a vision of what their own church could do at home and around the world. If this had been shared with my little circuit, and if they had pointed to the things that could have been done as we worked with Him, it would have meant a

new day for the Mt. Tirzah Circuit! But they did not come!

The civic clubs came to our community, and invited the men of the neighborhood to eat with them. Our ladies prepared the meals. A wonderful time was had by all, and a feeling of goodwill was created toward the business men of the nearby town. They had special committees that sat down and helped the farmers plan their business. The farmers told this committee their needs and what they expected from the town. There was a feeling of mutual assistance and goodwill. But no one came out saying we are one in Christ, let us create a great fellowship among the people of this trade territory in order that we may be able to build His Kingdom together!

I read Dr. Rapkin's plan for the group ministry. I kept asking the question, "Could this be the answer?" After reading a few articles, I determined to go as deep in the study of this plan as possible with the resources that were available. The Arkansas Methodist was printing articles about the group ministry telling of areas in the North Arkansas Conference where the plan was being carried out quite successfully. I decided that my research would be carried on in my home conference. A thesis was written as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for a B. D. Degree on the subject, "The Group Ministry at Work in the North Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Church". The materials were secured for this work by writing to organizations and persons in the North Arkansas Conference for articles, bulletins, books, records, and the personal testimony of many individuals engaged in the program.

The evaluation of the program as recorded in the conclusion of the thesis wholeheartedly supports this type of approach, and it was interesting to note that the presence of certain things always meant success, and their absence failure. I quote from the first page of the conclusion to the thesis: "The following elements stand out in the successful areas: the continued interest of the District Superintendents and the Bishop, long pastorates, understanding and sympathetic ministers, and basically, a spirit of cooperation existing between the participating individuals and groups. Whenever there has been failure, it had been due to the absence of at least some of these elements."

This study lead me to believe that here was a practical approach to the problems I had been facing on my circuit! An approach that marvelously fit into the framework of the connectional system of the Methodist Church. The "world Parish" began with actual cooperation and sharing near at hand and the circle ever

WORK AT STATE SANATORIUM

This is a brief report of activities at the State Sanatorium. It is a privilege to carry on the work in this institution. The opportunities are endless. The fine response given the Chaplain's contacts and ministry by the numerous affords encouragement. The patient requests for prayer in the rooms reveals a desire for spiritual things. It is a genuine pleasure to be able to place Upper Rooms and other pieces of good literature in the hands of the patients. They appear to be grateful for the literature.

Again I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation of friends in the Arkansas and Louisiana Conferences. The donations to the Methodist Sunshine Fund, making possible sufficient copies of the Upper Room, sending literature, tray cards and gifts to needy patients shows a real interest on the part of these friends. I am glad to work with individuals and groups who wish to get in touch with patients in the Sanatorium. There may be persons who want to correspond with, or send things to patients here. Please let me know when I can be of assistance.

In the Adult Teacher Magazine for December is an article, Christmas or Santa Claus Cult? It says, "The Christmas miracle of God-made-man is the focus of our Christmas lesson this year." This can be the focus ever. It should be. As the Christmas Season approaches I am thinking of our patients. It is my plan to give each of them a gift and bulletin. There are about twelve hundred in the Sanatorium. Most of them will be here during the holidays, although some will get to go home. Acts of kindness will bring cheer to these dear people. Last year I played records of the Carols in almost every building. The Christmas Carols were enjoyed by both patients and employees. I plan to do this again this year. There are also the children in Masonic building. It is my desire to remember them again with some gift. The Sunday morning church services at eleven o'clock with the children gives an opportunity to make some contribution to their soul's need. It is a wonderful thing to see how interested the children are in their services.

Let me request that you continue to pray for us here. I want to thank every one who has helped in any way through the months past. Without your kindness and contributions I could not carry on the work in the Sanatorium. — Bates Sturdy, Chaplain

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rev. J. T. Byrd, pastor at Harrisburg, will be the preacher in a series of services at the Nettleton Church, January 18-25. Rev. Clyde E. Crozier is the Nettleton pastor.

Rev. C. Norman Guice, who directs the Visitation Program in the First Methodist Church on Conway, was guest preacher at the First Methodist Church of Russellville on Sunday, December 7.

Rev. John B. Hefley, pastor of Uni-

widened until it had taken in the whole world.

I decided then that I would try to help establish such a program wherever I might be sent, and if this type of approach were being used already, I would do my best to keep it going. (continued next week)

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT PARSONETTES MEETS

The Parsonettes of the Little Rock District met Thursday December 4th, at the home of Mrs. G. H. Hyde, 1911 S. Taylor, Little Rock, with the following as assistant hostesses: Mrs. T. T. McNeal, Mrs. Roy Fawcett, Mrs. Rex Wilkes, Mrs. W. W. Nelson, Mrs. M. O. Barnes, Mrs. There were twenty-eight present. The ladies were asked to come dressed as school girls, and the hostess and hostesses were the "School Marm". This proved to be a very enjoyable occasion for all.

After the serving of delicious refreshments, several special numbers were enjoyed. The group sang Christmas carols.—Reporter

45 COUNTRIES TO JOIN BIBLE READING PROGRAM

People of 45 countries will participate in the 1952 Worldwide Bible Reading program, which will run from Thanksgiving Day through Christmas, it was announced by the American Bible Society. More than 15 million bookmarks listing Bible passages to be read during the 29-day program are being distributed by the Society.

The project, now in its ninth year, is designed to encourage Bible reading and promote a feeling of fellowship throughout the world by having millions of people read identical Bible verses each day. One passage has been chosen for each of the 29 days. The passages were selected by the Society after a poll of 1,096 clergymen to determine their favorite verses.

Persons taking part in the program may read the passages in any version or translation of the Bible. All expenses of the project are borne by the Society. Universal Bible Sunday, a highlight of the program in which thousands of churches participate each year, will be observed on December 14.

Bookmarks listing the Bible passages have been printed in English, Spanish Portuguese, Italian, French, Japanese, Korean, Siamese, Arabic and other languages. For the first time, the bookmarks also have been printed in Braille for use by the blind.

The President of the United States serves each year as program chairman. President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower and former President Herbert Hoover are among 1952 sponsors. The Society paid many charitable organizations, social institutions, labor unions and the armed services would cooperate in the program. Many libraries, schools and colleges are expected to arrange special displays in connection with it.

versity Methodist Church, Lake Charles, preached the sermon at the session of the Lake Charles District Conference on Wednesday, December 3. Brother Hefley was pastor of the First Methodist Church, Arkadelphia, until he was transferred to the Louisiana Conference in June.

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AMERICAN METHODIST CHURCH



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NEWS

SHOWER FOR LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S HOME

The Methodist Youth Fellowships of the following churches of the Monroe District, Crowville, Little Creek, Mangham, Wisner and Winnsboro, sponsored a canned fruit and vegetable shower for the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home for Thanksgiving. Gifts of home canned and commercially canned commodities were solicited. More than 100 jars of home canned fruits, vegetables, jellies and pickles were received, also about 330 containers of commercially canned fruits and vegetables.

This offering was presented to Rev. C. B. White, superintendent of the Home on November 26. Such an undertaking always blesses twice; those who gave had the thrill of doing so, and what was done surely brought real joy to those who must care for our friends in our Home in Ruston. Brother White was most grateful and expressed his appreciation to the group.—W. H. Bengston, Pastor at Winnsboro.

PIGGOTT M. Y. F. GIVES THANKSGIVING BOX

The Methodist Youth Fellowship of Piggott, under the direction of its counselors, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smithers, met in the fellowship hall of the church on Tuesday evening prior to Thanksgiving for an evening of fellowship.

Included in the activities were recreation with equipment games, the making of candy, and the preparation of a lovely Thanksgiving box, sufficient for a well-balanced meal, including a dressed chicken and all the trimmings, to be given to a worthy family for Thanksgiving. The

WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS

The Elouise Butler Sub-District met in Walnut Ridge on November 17 with seventy-seven present. Churches represented were Walnut Ridge, Pocahontas, Hoxie, Reyno, Biggers, Knobel and Maynard. A Thanksgiving program was presented by Alice Cunningham and George Gill of Walnut Ridge which was followed by a dedication and communion service. Refreshments were served by the Walnut Ridge group. The next meeting will be held at Knobel on December 22.

The Methodist Crusaders of the Ruston District met in Arcadia on November 17 with approximately one hundred eighty in attendance. The devotional meditation was given by Ray Branton, student of Louisiana Tech. Glynn Haynes, president, presided over the business meeting. A short talk was given by the Concern representative, Jane Reeves. A social period followed the meeting. The next meeting will be held in Castor on December 22.

The Capitol Sub-District held its November meeting at the Youth Center of the First Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on November 25. This meeting was a Foreign Fellowship Party, honoring some of the foreign students from Louisiana State University. The party began with the German folk game, "Ach Ja", and then some of the guests directed games from their home

box was delivered to the family by two of the youth, with Mrs. Smithers on Wednesday afternoon. Thus, with and in the true Thanksgiving spirit, the MYF shared Thanksgiving with others.—Jessie L. Johnson

REPORT FROM COLUMBIA METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Methodist Youth Fellowship of the Columbia Methodist Church met in May and elected the following officers and leaders for the year 1952-53: President, Jo Anne James; Vice-president, Harold Baumans; Secretary, Sue Meredith; Treasurer, Linus Carroll and Counselor, Miss Bert Hearn.

The Fellowship has an enrollment of twenty-seven with an average attendance of twenty. Eighty-four dollars was pledged to the M. Y. F. Fund and it is sent in monthly to the state treasurer.

On October 5, we served as host to an organizational meeting of the Caldwell Parish Sub-District M. Y. F. Three young people from our group were selected as officers and our counselor, Miss Hearn, was selected as one of the adult advisors.

The following program has been carried on through the various commissions:

Missions and World Friendship: Three dollars was sent to the McDonnell Home and a pledge was made to the M. Y. F. Fund.

Worship and Evangelism: The committee has charge of the worship

service at the beginning of each morning and evening service. Power is sent to college students each quarter. Worship service each fourth Sunday night during the church hour is prepared under their direction.

Recreation: A youth choir has been organized under the direction of our band director, Mr. Herbert Gathright, with Mrs. Louise Warner as accompanist. The group meets each Monday night for practice which is followed by a short social period. This enthusiastic group has shown much progress under the new director.

Community Service: This group has charge of clothing Glenda Hogue, a little girl from the orphanage whom the M. Y. F. has adopted. Cards and flowers are sent to the sick and distressed of the community.

At the beginning of the year, there was a balance on hand of \$68.79 and since that time total receipts have amounted to \$152.64. Disbursements have amounted to \$91.88, leaving a balance of \$129.55.—Jo Anne James, President.

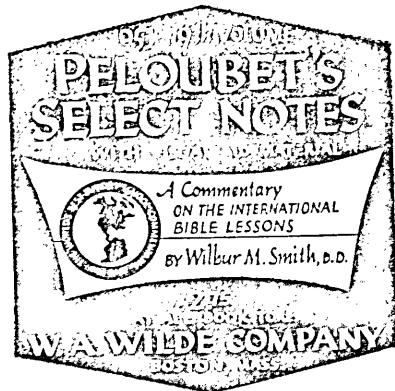
countries. A game from South America was played and two from India. The group was then served refreshments from a table decorated with a Horn of Plenty, overflowing with flowers and fruit. After refreshments, some of the students sang songs in their native language. A short worship and meditation was led by Nena Whittington. It is the hope of the group that in some way this little gesture of friendship will help in international goodwill.

The Delta Sub-District meeting was held at Earle on November 24. Wynne had the program and Earle furnished the recreation. New officers were elected as follows: Catherine Gary, Earle, President; Ann Hicks, West Memphis, Vice-president; Shirley McGaughay, Wynne, Secretary and Treasurer and Betty Ann Harrell, Wynne, Reporter. A Fellowship Team was also appointed to organize M. Y. F.'s in other churches. There were 112 young people counselors and ministers present. Earle had 35, West Memphis 12, Wynne 24 and Cherry Valley 41. The next meeting will be held at West Memphis on January 26.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE MEETS

Plans for intensifying work among homes in defense areas and holding a national conference on family life were made at a meeting of The Methodist Church's national family life committee in Chicago Nov. 22.

In a resolution addressed to several of the denomination's general boards and agencies, the committee said it was "greatly aroused concerning the spiritual needs of families living in the new defense-industrial areas," and urged that these boards and agencies "intensify their programs of work in these areas."



A reserve is not something to fall back on—it is something to go forward with.—Jas. A. Decker, Good Business.

Music and Your Child



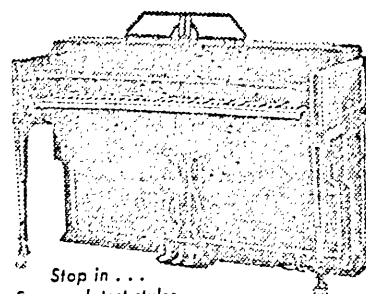
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LITTLE ROCK

THE EXPECTANCY OF THE WORLD

(Continued from page 3)

spiritual laws are unchanged and real. They are not just to please God but life itself depends upon them.

Our obedience must be more than just a rearrangement of surface actions. Our obedience must touch the depths of our souls. Jeremiah became disillusioned over the great reforms simply because it did not make any difference in the relationships of the people. It did not change their basic attitude toward each other and toward God. Their worship was just as shallow as it had been in the past. His nation suffered from this shallow concept of life's unchanging principles. Our day is just as susceptible to that pitfall as in any day that has past. Our obedience must touch the deepest part of our lives and not only make a difference in our actions but in the basic attitudes that control those actions.

Hope and expectancy will still elude us until there is a strengthening of faith and a consecration of our powers to Christian labor. The most pessimistic person today is that person who may be a member of some Church but is not working at the job. Unless the best of our lives is devoted to the eternal task before us then there is but one thing that happens, and that is we can only see the collapse of good and the triumph of evil.

Think of giving at this Christmas season and you begin to see why there is a drought of hope in the hearts of many people. There will be eight dollars spent for liquor as over against one dollar for the Kingdom. We have been duped into the frame of mind that lends itself to believing that liquor is an essential part of the Christmas celebration. The true joy and the hope that are kindled in our hearts would be to really seek the true expression of our gifts for that which abides.

In the early pages of the book of Genesis there is the story of the enmity between the woman and the serpent. When good meets evil the battleline is drawn. The work of our hand to overcome evil always lends power and joy to our lives. There is an air of expectancy that thrills our hearts. Listen to the person who spends and is spent in the battle for righteousness and his spirit is contagious with hope. There is no thrill in Christian living that does not enter into the work of Christ in building the Kingdom of God on earth. When people join the Church and then sit down and refuse to give of their time, talents and money to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom there is but one inevitable result, and that is, a deadened spirit that is robbed of the last vestige of hope and expectancy.

This is the season for the new birth of hope and expectancy. It is for each and every person who is willing to enter the only doorway that is open. There is a hush that gathers over men as with hearts that are filled with new courage dare to leap up and catch the dawn of a new day in which the Babe of Bethlehem will rule with the sceptre of love. We hear again the angel chorus,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing."

—RB

METHODISM'S SUPREME COURT MEETS

Nashville, Tenn. — The Methodist Church's Judicial Council, in session here November 24-26, cleared its 1952 docket of nine cases and announced that it will meet again April 9-11, the place to be decided later.

The church's nine-man "supreme court" did not immediately make public its decisions on matters presented for adjudication. As is customary, the council secretary, Dr. Charles B. Ketcham, Alliance, Ohio, will compile a digest for release later through the New York office of Methodist Information.

The council president, Judge Marvin A. Childers of San Antonio, Tex., said the tribunal had fewer questions referred to it than was expected in view of the extensive legislative action by Methodism's quadrennial General Conference last spring. Principal action taken here, he said, pertained to appeals of rulings by three bishops, and questions on church law referred by Methodist groups in the Philippines.

The April meeting will be held in the church's Northeastern Jurisdiction in response to an invitation by a council member, the Rev. Ralph M. Houston, Kingston, New York.

Sessions here were held in the new general headquarters of the Methodist Board of Education, and the council members were housed at Scarritt College. The visitors were entertained at a breakfast by local ministers and laymen, and Judge Childers addressed the November meeting of the Nashville district Methodist Laymen's Club.

MARY MITCHELL WRITES FROM HIROSHIMA

(Continued from page 11)

the children's Sunday School which meets at 9:30. Have you ever tried to work with children when everything that is said has to go through a third person? Even so they are very responsive and I love them.

Peggy is teaching the young people at 10:30. Miss Cooper had been preaching, but now we have a pastor who has come from Korea. Church starts at 11:30 and is usually through a little after 1:00. We lend moral support to the church services Sunday morning and night and again on Wednesday evening. The Young people get together on Friday nights for singing, Bible study and fellowship.

On Thursday afternoons we go out to Fu-ku-shi-ma-cho. That is where the outcast Koreans and Japanese live. The first afternoon we saw so much dirt and disease that I came home wanting to disinfect myself. Even my eyes itched and burned. But just that once was all that I felt that way. I still notice the filth but I'm not afraid of the hands that grasp mine. I don't know exactly what kind of work you would call it. Group work? Community work? Something like that. The need is so great; you could work full time right there in the middle of that street and what we do in that one afternoon is so little. One of our Korean young people goes with us. We couldn't do a thing without Ki-ho to interpret. And besides that, he has a real talent for working with children. It is such a shame that his work is that of selling suits in a department store, but he is extremely lucky to have that job. As soon as we get there the children begin to gather. One family is letting us

use their fence to hang out song sheets on. Ki-ho leads the children and either tells them a story or interprets for us. Then we have games. Peggy has been playing volleyball with the older children and young people, while I play games with the little ones.

We don't know how long we will be here. Both of us are eager to get to Korea. There's lots to do here, of course, but we're really just filling up the time till we can get over across the Japan Sea.

I guess it will be nearing Christmas before you get this letter. I will

be thinking of each of you in your various places. I hope you will have just a real rich experience as we celebrate God's Christmas Gift to us. I wonder how He felt as He looked down on the Baby Jesus in the manger. I wish I knew how to give.

My love goes out to you. Or maybe it's God's love just passing through. Eloise and I used to forget — still do — which experiences were whose. I think sometimes what I assume is mine is really God's.

But anyway, with much love,
Mary Mitchell

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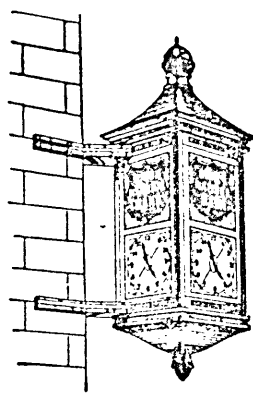
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The Sunday School Lesson

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 21, 1952

IS GOD WITH US?

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
Matthew 1. Printed Text: Matthew 1:18-25.

GOLDEN TEXT: You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

This is the fourth of the five lessons in Unit III. In it we find the culminating point of the unit. As we study these lessons let us keep in mind the general theme of the unit: "CHRISTIANITY FOR THE GOOD OF MEN." It is hoped that a study of these lessons will lead people to a greater realization of the benefits that come to the human race through Christianity, and to a greater appreciation of these many blessings.

A Look at the Scriptures

Our special study has to do with the printed portion of the text. In verse 18 we have a statement concerning the birth of Jesus. Matthew goes on to tell us that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal in those days meant much more than being engaged to be married now. A person may be engaged and break the engagement without going through a process of law, but back at that time one had to get a divorce as though he were already married to break a betrothal. If the man in the case died during the betrothal his bride-to-be was considered a widow. The betrothal was just as binding in every way as marriage and to all intent and purpose was marriage except for the fact that the couple had not come to live together as man and wife and had not gone through the public ceremony which consummated marriage.

This was the relationship that obtained between Joseph and Mary when she was found to be with child. We are told here that Joseph was a good man; kind, and merciful. He was very much in love with Mary. It is said that she was considerably younger than Joseph. The chances are he felt he was getting a great treasure in securing her for a wife. We can imagine how heart-broken he was when he learned of her condition. On the surface it seemed that she had been untrue to him. In such cases the law permitted the guilty person to be publicly disgraced and if the wronged husband-to-be so desired the guilty party might be put to death. There was, however, another course of action open in the law; if the husband-to-be desired to show mercy he might quietly divorce the guilty woman without letting the matter be known except to two other men who would appear as witnesses in the case. Joseph decided to take this latter course of action. He would have carried out this procedure had it not been for the fact that an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and assured him that Mary had not been untrue. The angel went on to say, "Do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

The angel did not stop with merely bringing this assurance to Joseph, he went on to give instructions as to what the child should be named.

The name "Jesus" is a Greek word and means "he shall save". The same name in Hebrew is "Joshua". We recall that Joshua, the assistant of Moses, was a saviour of the Israelites; he was a great general and saved them from their enemies. Christ would be a Saviour from sin, and his salvation was to be on a world-wide basis.

To further assure Joseph of the innocence of Mary the angel referred him to a statement made by Isaiah (see Isaiah 7:14), "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called 'Emmanuel' (which means, God with us). This seems to have completely satisfied Joseph as to the loyalty of Mary. We are told that he took her home to be his wife, but Mary remained a virgin until after the birth of Jesus. Later she had other children by Joseph. There were at least six of these other children. The four other sons of the family are named in Matt. 13:55-56 and Mark 6:3. The daughters were not named but were spoken of in the plural which leads us to know that there were at least two of them. As mentioned above, Joseph seems to have died while most of these children were small. The burden of taking care of a widowed mother and a number of younger brothers and sisters fell on the shoulders of Jesus. We know from the record that he followed the trade of carpentering.

The Lesson Applied

This is our annual Christmas lesson. The greatest single event that ever occurred was the coming of Christ into the world. His birthday is the watershed of all history. History is divided into so many years B. C. and so many A. D. It is true that an error of at least four years was made in dating our calendar. The scholars are agreed that Christ was born somewhere between B. C. 6 and B. C. 4. This error will never be corrected, but anyway the makers of the calendar intended that the year one on the calendar should be the year on which Jesus was born. The calendar should read at present "1956" in the place of "1952". The greatest material honor that could be conferred on Jesus was the dividing of time on this earth in keeping with his birth. No infidel can possibly date a letter without in a measure rendering some credit to Christ. He stands in the midst of history. Some one has said that "all history is his story"; the account of the influence of Christ upon the world.

The chief message of Christmas is "GOD WITH US". Man has always longed for fellowship with God. The Psalmist said, "As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul after thee, O God. My Soul thirsts for God, for the living God." Abraham

longed for this fellowship with God. He got so close to him that he was called "the friend of God." Moses longed for a vision of him but was told that no man could see God, in all of his glory, and live; it was simply more than physical strength could bear. Phillip wanted to see God. He said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus replied, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Phillip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say Show us the Father?" That was the one thing above all others that Christ came to do — to make God known to men. He is God Incarnate; he is God with us. That is the great message of Christmas.

Before the coming of Christ men had had various contacts with God. They had seen the power and the glory of God in nature. In the 19th Psalm we read, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge." From nature alone man knew that God was a Being of power and glory. Then, from the order and precision of created beings and things man came to know something of God's wisdom. He noted the fact that everything moved on in perfect order. Men learned that God was dependable by his unvarying activity through the natural laws. This also enabled them to know that he was working in his world.

Then, even before the coming of Christ, men saw God in beauty. The poet was right when he sang, "Look for the beautiful; look for the true; God and the beautiful will dwell with you." While here in the flesh Christ saw God in the beauty of the lily that bloomed by the road side. He insisted that Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Men see God in the beauty and glory of the setting sun. They see God in the love light that shines from the eyes of a loving mother as she looks upon the face of her babe. They see God in the ripple of laughter that plays on the lips of an innocent child.

There is one thing of great importance that we need to ever keep in mind and that is the fact that God is not trying to hide himself. On the contrary, in every possible way, he is trying to reveal himself to men. To achieve this end down through the years he has used every possible means. Through inspiration from him, prophets have revealed his will; poets have sung his praises. Though found in the Old Testament, the psalms continue to be the greatest body of devotional literature on earth. The hearts of these Hebrew poets were deeply stirred; their love for God was a living flame. God was simply using men as best he could to lay bare his heart before the world.

After all ordinary means of self-revelation had been exhausted, God had not yet fully made himself known to men. They had learned of his existence, his power, his wisdom, and his presence through nature and the operation of natural laws. They had learned much of his will through the teachings of the inspired prophets, but they had not learned the most important facts concerning God; namely, that he is a loving heavenly Father who is so deeply interested in his children that he is willing and anxious to suffer with them and for them. This love of God led him to desire harmonious fel-

lowship with all of his human creatures. Sin alone marred this fellowship, and all people have sinned. If this fellowship is to be restored and maintained the problem of sin must be dealt with. Men can never secure and maintain their own salvation from sin any more than they can lift themselves by their own bootstraps. God alone could solve this problem, and he could only do it by becoming man. If God could become man, accepting the limitations of human flesh, and in spite of these limitations live an absolutely perfect life, untainted by sin, then he could come back into harmonious fellowship with God. Christ, the God-Man, became the second Adam—The Second Head of the human race. Men lost in the first, but if they are willing and obedient they can gain more back in the Second than they lost in the first. Christ perfectly kept God's moral law, a thing that if the human race had done from start to finish there would never have been any need for salvation, but in spite of perfectly keeping this law Christ died as a law-breaker. He, therefore, died not for himself but for others. Any human who will repent; change his mind; turn his back on his evil habits and put his trust in Christ as a sin-bearer he will find himself in harmonious relationship with God. That is salvation.

To accomplish man's redemption God had to become man. The reasons for this are obvious; First, he had to pay the price of man's redemption. At first thought it might seem that since God is the greatest Being in the universe there could never be any necessity of him ever being in debt or having to pay a price to anybody or any thing. But this necessity comes about through the fact that God is not only the source of all life but of all law; spiritual, moral; and natural. The law has been broken; there can be no question about that. God is a Judge as well as a Father. The Judge of all the earth must do right; he must be just; he cannot treat law lightly. He must be true to himself and justice is one of the elements of his Nature. Before any tribunal of law, if the culprit goes free the judge is condemned; his treatment of that which he is supposed to uphold condemns him. Now, if the culprit cannot pay, and the judge because of his love for him pays the price of the violated law, he can set the culprit free and retain his justice. This also does another thing it enables the sinner to see what an awful thing sin is. Even God cannot deal with it except at great sacrifice to himself.

The second reason for God becoming man is that man might fully know him. When we see the God-Man, Christ, we see man as he ought to be and God as he forever is. That is the message of Christmas.

